

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
County Office Building, County Chambers, 3rd Floor,  
1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL

9/23/2024 - 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: Alderpersons Randy Hurt, Kevin Maynard, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy, and Mayor Mike Thoms. Alderperson Moses Robinson attended via remote connection in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/7.

Absent: None.

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

**MOTION:**

Alderperson Poulos moved to allow Alderperson Moses Robinson to participate remotely in the City Council Meeting; Alderperson Maynard seconded.

**VOTE:**

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

**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**

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

Preston Muhammad said he and his wife applied to purchase the lot next to their residence for the purpose of

gardening but were denied by the Community Development Department due to excessive complaints. He said they became part of the City's gardening program in 2015 but were forced out of the garden after six years as the City wanted to sell the vacant lots. He said he did not understand how the citations were severe enough to deny the sale of the property.

Jeral Webster, Mr. Muhammad's wife, said they received a great amount of interest from their garden. She referenced pictures that were emailed to Council and discussed the organization of the garden. She asked Council to approve the sale.

Jack Cullen, Executive Director of the Rock Island Downtown Alliance (RIDA), provided updates on some of the upcoming downtown events. He said Coffee with a Cop would be held on September 26th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at QC Coffee and Pancake House. A new Rock Island Police UTV would be unveiled at the event. Terror at Skellington Manor and Shock House Haunted House at the QCCA Expo Center were opening September 27th. On October 12th and 13th, RIDA would be presenting Back from the Dead, a promotion to highlight the different Halloween-related activities and provide free trolley services. Mr. Cullen also shared that RIDA was supportive of the downtown-related items on the agenda.

## **6. Awards and Honor Presentations, Officer Swearing in Ceremony, and Proclamations**

- a. Proclamation declaring September 24, 2024, as Courtney Lindsey Day in the City of Rock Island.

Clerk Gange read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration. Courtney Lindsey's family was present to accept the proclamation. A photo was taken. Larondia Vesey, Mr. Lindsey's mother, thanked Council.

## **7. Update Rock Island**

### **Thursday Night Groove continues in Schwiebert Riverfront Park**

Come enjoy free music by a favorite local band, *For Those About to Yacht*, this Thursday, September 26th. Rock Island Parks & Recreation concessions and Bent River Brewery open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and get ready to have some fun.

### **Banned Books Week**

Celebrate the freedom to read this week during Banned Books Week at the Rock Island Public Library Watts-Midtown Branch, 2715 30th Street. A "Read Out" will be held on Tuesday, September 24th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with refreshments, and continues with live public readings from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. of challenged or banned works. Attendees may come to read or just listen.

### **Help Rock Island celebrate a big anniversary**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Southwest Library Branch and Fire Station will be held Wednesday, September 25th from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to 9010 Ridgewood Road and enjoy cake, refreshments, activities, tours, a library scavenger hunt and firefighter story time.

### **Fill the Boot for a good cause**

The Rock Island Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 26, will hold their annual "Fill the Boot" fundraising campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Look for firefighters at the intersection of 30th Street and 18th Avenue on Friday, October 4th from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, October 5th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sunday, October 6th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**City Open House**

The first annual City Open House will be held on Saturday, October 5th from noon to 3 p.m. on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets. Get a firsthand look inside police and fire department vehicles, climb up inside one of the City’s new snowplows and take behind-the-scenes tours of the police and fire stations. Come meet your elected and city officials while learning about what different city departments do.

**8. Passage of Ordinances and Resolutions**

- All items under the Passage of Ordinances and Resolutions will be enacted by a single motion and subsequent roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an Alderperson requests it, in which case, the item will be moved and considered after approval.
- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a resolution declaring support for ITEP grant submission for Phase 1, Crosstown Shared-Use Pathway.
  - b. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a resolution providing for a feasibility study on the designation of a downtown redevelopment project area.
  - c. Report from the Community Development Department regarding an ordinance authorizing the establishment of a Tax Increment Financing Interested Parties Registry and adoption of registration rules for such parties.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to adopt the resolutions and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

**9. Ordinances (First Readings)**

- a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding an application from Shahid Muhammad & Jeral Webster to purchase City-owned property at 1120 4th Avenue for \$647 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- |         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to deny the property sale. |
|---------|-----------------------------------|

RC

Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the property sale; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson spoke in support of Mr. Muhammad. Aldersperson Robinson added that he has had several issues with the current gardens near his own residence. Aldersperson Hurt questioned the ownership of Mr. Muhammad's home. Mr. Muhammad clarified that they were long-term renters, and their landlord did not want to sell the home. He added that he offered to buy the lots when they were pushed out of the garden, but the City denied the sale because they did not own their residence. Aldersperson Hurt asked Community Development Director Miles Brainard if citations are sent to the property owner or the renter. Mr. Brainard said it was the property owner. Mr. Muhammad said he received some notices and his landlord received some. He offered explanations for each citation. He assured Council they would still tend to the lot in the event they no longer leased the home. Aldersperson Robinson said he had no concerns about Mr. Muhammad moving forward with the sale.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from Administration regarding changes to the Rock Island Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article I, Sections 2-5 and 2-6, "Legal Department," Article III, Division 2, Sections 2-67 and 2-70, "City Manager Appointment and Removal," and Chapter 11, Article II, "Community and Economic Development" Ordinances (First Reading)

Motion:

Motion to consider the changes to the ordinances.

RC

Roll Call vote is needed.

Clerk Gange clarified that the ordinance would amend the removal process of the City Manager and a super majority would be required. Aldersperson Parker requested that the ordinances be voted on separately.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve changes to the "Legal Department" ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

**MOTION:**

Aldersperson Poulos moved to consider changes to the "City Manager Appointment and Removal" ordinance; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

**VOTE:**

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

**MOTION:**

Aldersperson Parker moved to consider the changes to the "Community and Economic Development" ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

**VOTE:**

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

**10. 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. Minutes from the September 9, 2024 City Council Meetings.
- b. Minutes from the September 9, 2024 Closed Session.
- c. Claims for the week of August 2 through August 8, 2024, in the amount of \$1,291,144.30; for the week of August 9 through August 15, 2024, in the amount of \$995,623.13; and payroll for the weeks of August 19 through September 1, 2024, in the amount of \$1,825,028.59.
- d. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the weeks of July 27 through August 9, 2024, in the amount of \$31,429.30.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$44,334 to Kraft Power Corporation, Gaylord, Michigan, for the Wet Weather Treatment Pump Engine Maintenance Contract.
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$64,345.74 to Ostrom Painting and Sandblasting, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2024 Pavement Marking Program.
- g. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Penni Steen, owner of Skellington

Manor, to close the southern half of 18th Street between 4th & 5th Avenues each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between September 27 through October 27, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. for their annual haunted house event.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through g; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

## 11. Claims/Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$20,856.57 to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois, for the Water Service and Sewer Lateral Repair Program Repairs.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the claim; Aldersperson Hurt 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: Hurt, Maynard, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a purchase in the amount of \$99,500 to Crawford Company, Rock Island, Illinois, for two vendor stalls as part of the Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Improvement Project.

Motion: Motion to approve the purchase and authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase agreement.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Maynard moved to approve the purchase and authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase agreement; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

**12. Contracts/Agreements**

- a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a memorandum of understanding with the Rock Island Housing Authority.

|         |                                                                                                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the memorandum of understanding and authorize the City Manager to execute the document. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                                                 |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the memorandum of understanding and authorize the City Manager to execute the document; Aldersperson Maynard seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from Administration and the ARPA Tourism Committee regarding an Interagency Agreement between the City of Rock Island Administration and the Parks & Recreation Department for the schematic design and planning phase for improvements at the Genesius Guild Performing Arts Theater in Lincoln Park in the amount of \$26,000 (ARPA unrestricted funds).

|         |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the agreement subject to minor attorney modifications and authorize the City Manager and Parks and Recreation Director to execute the agreement. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                                                                                                          |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director to execute the agreement; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Poulos said he would be glad to see the improvements. Aldersperson Parker thanked the

organizers at the Genesius Guild for their presence and work within the community.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a bid award and contract in the amount of \$10,650 to General Constructors, Bettendorf, Iowa for the Weir Rehabilitation Project.

Motion: Motion to award the bid, approve the contract, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to award the bid, approve the contract, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Poulos 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: Hurt, Maynard, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the Community Project Funding Grant Agreement for the Rock Island Parkway and 35th Street West Intersection Reconstruction Project.

Motion: Motion to approve the grant agreement and authorize the City Manager and City Engineer to execute the documents.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the grant agreement and authorize the City Manager and City Engineer to execute the documents; Aldersperson Maynard seconded.

VOTE:

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

- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the renewal of the Coast Guard Auxiliary

lease at Sunset Marina.

|         |                                                                                                       |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the lease as written and authorize the City Manager to execute the lease agreement. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                                             |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the lease as written and authorize the City Manager to execute the lease agreement; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the renewal of the Sunset Marina apartment rental lease agreement.

|         |                                                                                                                 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the lease agreement as written and authorize the City Manager to execute the lease agreement. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                                                       |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the lease as written and authorize the City Manager to execute the lease agreement; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a bid award and contract in the amount of \$723,494.38 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, IL for the 28th Street Court and 32nd Court Reconstruction Project (MFT funds).

|         |                                                                                         |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the contract and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                               |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the contract and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Poulos 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: Hurt, Maynard, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

**13. Department Reports**

- a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a Downtown TIF District Feasibility Study.

|         |                                                                                                                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the Downtown TIF Feasibility Study and authorize staff to distribute it to all affected taxing bodies. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                                                                |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the Downtown TIF Feasibility Study and authorize staff to distribute it to all affected taxing bodies; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding assistance to businesses impacted by the downtown construction.

|         |                                                                                                 |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion: | Motion to approve the program and authorize the City Manager to execute the program agreements. |
| RC      | Roll Call vote is needed.                                                                       |

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the program and authorize the City Manager to execute the program agreements; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

**14. Events/Misc Requests**

- a. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Biggz Big World, LLC, Des Moines, IA, for sound amplification and to close 4th Street south of 11th Avenue on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for an event to raise mental health awareness.

Motion: Motion to approve the request as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Maynard moved to approve the requests as recommended; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Hauberg Estate to close the north entrance of 24th Street on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their annual Oktoberfest; and a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol in the fenced-in area of the front lawn.

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:

Aldersperson 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 received; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

## 15. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Healy spoke positively about TIF and his own experience with the previous downtown TIF program. He stressed the importance of supporting the downtown businesses and attracting new businesses to the area.

## 16. Adjourn

- a. Motion to Adjourn to October 14, 2024.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the minutes as printed; Aldersperson Maynard seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:34 p.m.