

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE,
COUNTY OF ROCK ISLAND, STATE OF ILLINOIS
*MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016 6:30P.M.***

PLEDGE

Mayor Thodos led the City Council and all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Thodos called the meeting to order and directed City Clerk Arletta D. Holmes to call the roll. The following Aldermen were present: Helen Heiland, Gary Almblade, Humberto Aguilar, Robert Cheffer, Gary Westbrook, and Mayor Thodos. **Absent:** Ed DeJaynes.

Mayor Thodos informed the City Council that Alderman DeJaynes, will not be here tonight due to illness.

Mayor Thodos informed the City Council that Alderman Mulcahey has requested a conference call to participate in the City Council and Committee-of-the-Whole meetings.

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Almblade, to allow Alderman Mulcahey, to participate in the City Council and Committee of the Whole meetings via conference call.

Alderman Almblade asked what are the rules regarding conference calls? City Clerk Holmes stated that if a person is ill and unable to attend, out of town on business, or working they are allowed to participate with the approval of the City Council. Alderman Almblade asked is Nancy on vacation or is this business?

Alderman Mulcahey replied that she will be working remotely out of town for the next couple of months in Florida.

Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almblade, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Trice, 520-30th Street Rock Island, Illinois – Ms. Trice read the following statement to the City Council: “Thanked Mayor Thodos and the City Council for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. I have come here tonight along with my Pastor, Pastor Harris, of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East Moline, to say “Thank you” to the East Moline Police Department, for your service. Recently, I was pulled over for a traffic stop by Officer Wolfe. He told me – the reason for the stop was my brake lights were dim. My car is legal, just not in the best shape, but that it was OK to drive. So, while I was waiting for him to write me a ticket, he comes back with an O’Reilly’s gift card, instead of a ticket, and said, “here maybe this will help you fix that light”. To think that he did that out of his concern is something that should be recognized, this is something good and positive. Ms. Trice shared this with Pastor Harris, because of what he and local pastors are doing to bring an awareness of the “Village of a Thousand Elders” to help increase respect between the citizens and the Police Department. Ms. Trice said she used her gift card and just wanted to say “Thank You”, again” to officer Wolfe and to keep it up it is a good idea”.

Rev. P. Wonder Harris, 2554 9 ½ Street, East Moline, Illinois - Pastor Harris said he talked to Officer Wolfe, and told him that Nancy Trice came back and she was just talking about the Police Department, and how she could not believe that she got a gift card. Pastor Harris said to him, since his last name was Wolfe, so you are handing out “Wolfe tickets”. She was glad to get the Wolfe ticket, and he is so grateful that he took it upon himself. A lot of police officers have given motorist a warning, but this one, he had an investment in Public safety and we just applaud that.

Mayor Thodos – stated that it is his understanding that this was not benevolent, it was not PD, and it was his own. A lot of people do not understand what it is like being a public servant, and to hear a good positive story like that for the entire community, that is great to hear. Mayor Thodos thanked Ms. Trice for sharing that with the City Council.

CITY CLERK’S REPORT

City Clerk Holmes passed.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

None

CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Arletta D. Holmes read the Consent Agenda that included the following:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of January 19, 2016.
- B. Approval of Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes of January 19, 2016.
- C. Approval of Salaries for January 29, 2016 in the amount of \$403,305.42
- D. Approval of Bills in the amount of \$725,493.17.
- E. Approval of a Proclamation, proclaiming the month of January as; “National Mentoring Month”

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Aguilar, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almblade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

REPORT BY MAYOR:

Mayor Thodos updated the City Council on how the monthly tour groups from the Rock Island Arsenal are progressing. These are new people that have come to the area from various other states and cities. The East Moline downtown businesses put together personalize bags that include coupons and filers for the bags. Mayor Thodos noted that he has been told by some of the businesses that this is actually getting people to come to our downtown. The goal is to get them acclimated to the Quad Cities.

Mayor Thodos was at the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA), all day on Friday, and for the very first time ever they had State Elected Officials from Illinois and Iowa, both trying to get a handle on what we do over here, and how we compare to other communities. The Arsenal Facility in New Jersey, and Alabama, and what it is that these do in order to make it more prone to get jobs, instead of losing jobs. In Huntsville, Ala. They have it down to a science; they now employ approximately 35,000 employees. One of the things that states do is think ahead, they invest in their communities, schools, and roads, so when the time comes they are prepared. We were trying to convey to Iowa, that technically the RIA is located in Illinois, but over half the people who work their lives in Iowa. By keeping RIA open, it stimulates the economy in Eastern, Iowa, and Western, Illinois. Ten years ago we worked on getting a direct flight to Washington D.C. because we were told that was the reason we lost all of those jobs, as we had no direct flight to D.C.

Mayor Thodos stated that the Council should have gotten a copy of the contract Voorhees & Associates, for their review and questions.

City Attorney Clayton Lee presented the following Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 16-02: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE BID FROM PROTANK LIQUID HANDLING PRODUCTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,365 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF TANKS FOR THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE.

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Heiland, to approve **Resolution 16-02**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-03: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE ENGINEERING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE AND VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC., NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$40,400 FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BOILER

A motion was made by Alderman Almlade, seconded by Alderman Heiland, to approve **Resolution 16-03**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-04: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE BID FROM COOPMAN TRUCKING & EXCAVATING, INC., FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1314 18TH AVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE.

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Cheffer, to approve **Resolution 16-04**. upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-05: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE BID FROM PRECISION DEMOLITION, FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1531 8TH AVENUE FOR THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE.

A motion was made by Alderman Cheffer, seconded by Alderman Westbrook, to approve **Resolution 16-05**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-06: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE BID FROM JERRY A. BENDER, FOR THE PURCHASE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE, LOCATED AT 1305 18TH AVENUE EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Almlade, to approve **Resolution 16-06**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-07: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE REPLACEMENT FIREFIGHTER DUE TO A RETIREMENT OF A FIRE FIGHTER FOR THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Chief DeFrance gave the background information on **Resolution 16-07**.

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Aguilar, to approve **Resolution 16-07**. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-08: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS, AWARDING TWO (2) CONTRACTS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION AT THE CITY'S CLOSED LANDFILL, EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS.

Mayor Thodos requested that Mr. Kammler update the City Council on Resolution 16-08.

Mr. Kammler - this is a project that is being mandated upon us by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The concentration of certain pollutions are simply too high downgrading of our old Landfill and they are requiring further remediation to the tile and tank system that we have. This system will add additional sumps into the ground that will pump leachate out of the ground, upgrading the boundary of the landfill, the intension is to try and collect a much greater amount of leachate. Designs were put out in May of 2015, at that time, the bids were over \$400,000 dollars. Mr. Kammler, than recommended that the Council reject the bids, because he thought the bids were too high. The project was re-bid in January, 2016, and there is a savings of \$132,000.

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Cheffer, to approve **Resolution 16-08**.

Additional discussion was held regarding various aspects of this issue.

Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almlade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (Alderman Almlade)

Alderman Almlade had no items for discussion. All other items have been covered under the Consent Agenda Ordinance or Resolution

CITY STAFF COMMUNICATION:

Each City Staff member present was given the opportunity to inform the City Council and those present of events in their departments:

Ms. Petersen, Finance Director- Ms. Petersen informed the City Council of a lottery drawing that they will be doing in 2 weeks. The City has left over grant money that was received from the Attorney General Office, through Rock Island Economic Growth Corp. We have \$180,000 left of that, so we are doing a lottery to do some bigger projects. Basically, it has to be a single family owner occupied home. We will be doing a minimum of four (4) homeowners, with a maximum rehab amount of \$30,000 that would be a substantial amount of improvements done to a house. Applications can either be picked up at City Hall or they can be down loaded from our website. Applications must be returned by 4:30p.m. on February 12th and the drawing will be held on February 17th at 4:00p.m. here in the City Hall Council Chambers. There are income guidelines that must be met, in order to qualify.

Mayor Thodos gave additional background information as the money was part of the City's \$180,000 share from a \$25 billion settlement due to banks fraudulent foreclosure practices. Ms. Petersen stated that it is her understanding that this is a 5 years forgivable loan. As long as they stay living in the house for 5 years, loan is 100% forgiven, but if they were to move out before the 5 years, than they would have to pay a portion of what they received.

Mr. Kammler, Director of Engineering Services – Mr. Kammler reported to the City Council that they have received the results from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding our levee inspection, which is done annually. Mr. Miller and Mr. Stickler accompanied them on their inspection of the levee. The three big issues were:

- Really bad Pump Houses – we were in jeopardy of losing our 8499 status, but due to the City Council actions, they already have a set of improvement plans for the pump houses.
- Add some rip rap here and there.
- Ground Hog Holes – Mr. Kammler stated that he and Mr. Lambrecht will be meeting with a ground hog specialist tomorrow to see what they can do about trapping some of these ground hogs, and other options in order to deal with this problem.

Mr. Kammler and Mayor Thodos have been meeting with the District Regional Engineer, Paul Loete from IDOT with regards to our Highway Maintenance responsibilities on Illinois 92 between 12th and 19th Street. We are stuck with another bill with the States Storm Sewer falling into the ground. We are still in disagreement, as to whose responsibility it is, and we would hope to have a favorable outcome.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Alderman Westbrook, seconded by Alderman Aguilar, to adjourn the City Council meeting. Upon roll call the following voted in favor: Almblade, Mulcahey, Aguilar, Cheffer, Westbrook, and Heiland. Motion carried. **7:08p.m.**

Minutes taken and submitted by,

Arletta D. Holmes, City Clerk

