

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE,
COUNTY OF ROCK ISLAND, STATE OF ILLINOIS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE:

Mayor Reggie Freeman led the City Council and all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order and directed Acting City Clerk Katelyn Roberts to call the roll. The following Alderpersons were present: Olivia Dorothy, Jeffrey Deppe, Larry Jones, Adam Guthrie, Lynn Segura, and Jose Rico. Absent: Rhea Oakes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Keith Moline IL. Mr. Keith spoke regarding Climate Engineering.

PRESENTATIONS and/or PROCLAMATIONS

City Administrator Mark Rothert presented a Proclamation, proclaiming January 2026 as “National Mentoring Month,” John Reynolds and Alexavier accepted the Proclamation on behalf of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley.

Mayor Freeman noted that Mr. John Reynolds is a retired Police Chief with 26 years of service and has been paired with Alexavier since 2017 as part of the “Bigs in Blue” campaign.

Alexavier shared that he has been partnered with Mr. Reynolds for eight years. He will turn 18 years old before reaching the 10-year mark but plans to continue spending time with Mr. Reynolds. He expressed gratitude for Mr. Reynolds’ guidance and support in helping him grow as a person.

Mr. Reynolds stated that many “Little” are in need of mentors and encouraged anyone looking for a meaningful opportunity to consider participating, noting the experience is very rewarding.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acting City Clerk Katelyn Roberts read the Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025.
- b. Approval of Salaries as of 12/19/2025 in the amount of \$489,921.53
- c. Approval of Overtime as of 12/19/2025 in the amount of \$38,576.38
- d. Approval of Salaries as of 01/02/2026 in the amount of \$518,360.71
- e. Approval of Overtime as of 01/02/2026 in the amount of \$20,743.96
- f. Approval of Salaries as of 01/16/2026 in the amount of \$517,748.61
- g. Approval of Overtime as of 01/16/2026 in the amount of \$11,381.38

- h. Approval of Bills as of 1/05/2026 in the amount of \$324,789.62
- i. Approval of Bills as of 1/14/2026 in the amount of \$4,965,928.74
- j. Treasurer's Report for December 2025.

A motion was made by Alderperson Rico, seconded by Alderperson Dorothy, to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried.

- k. Mayoral Appointment of Merleena Olvera to Library Board.

A motion was made by Alderperson Segura, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to approve Mayoral Appointment of Merleena Olvera to Library Board. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY ROGER L. STRANDLUND - ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES – 2nd Reading

25-20 City Code Amendment to Update Wastewater Treatment Plant Local Limits

A motion was made by Alderperson Dorothy, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to approve Ordinance 25-20. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES – 1st Reading

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

CITY STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

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

City Administrator – Mark Rothert

Mr. Rothert reported that he and Director Graham meet with firm that conducts park equipment replacement analysis on a pro bono basis. The firm reviewed the City's park system and identified equipment in need of replacement. They will return with recommendations and a capital replacement plan, including cost estimates.

Empire Park will require major revitalization, along with improvements throughout the park system. Final information is expected by the end of February or March.

Mr. Rothert also reported that the City was not awarded the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant. The City had applied for \$600,000.00 for improvements to Jacobs Park. The only project funded in the area was for the Rock Island County Forest Preserve. The City will continue applying annually.

Police – Chief Ramsey

Applications for new police officers opened January 20, 2026. Testing is scheduled for March 7, 2026. The job link is available on the City website. Lateral transfer applications are also open for officers with at least two years of full-time experience.

The Citizens Police Academy will begin January 21, 2026, at the East Moline Police Station.

Engineering Director - Tim Kammler

At the State Bid Letting on January 16, 2026, bids were opened for the 12th Avenue Improvement Project (RAISE Grant). The project came in at \$9,000,000.00, approximately \$1,000,000.00 under budget.

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Brian Glasgow

Firm interviews were conducted January 15 - 16, 2026, for the Phase 1 Design SOQ work for the plant upgrade. Interviews were held with CMT, Strand and HDR. A decision is expected by January 23, 2026, followed by fee negotiations.

The new permit was received January 16, 2026. The only change requires quarterly PFAS sampling at an approximate cost of \$571.00 per test.

Water Filtration Plant – Brianna Huber

The application for the first Lead Service Line Replacement Revolving Fund Loan Application has been completed and will be submitted following signatures

The Pipe Loop Study has begun. Pip loops have been harvested and are currently in the conditioning phase, which will take several months before the full-scale study begins.

The engineering firm assisting with the corrosion control transition plan will submit final recommendations to the Illinois EPA. Implementation could begin as early as March 2026.

Mr. Rothert also noted that a WQAD reporter is preparing a story regarding Lead Service Line Replacement efforts in East Moline.

Mayor – Reggie Freeman

Mayor Freeman stated he received inquiries regarding insurance mailers for Lead Service Line Replacement and confirmed they are legitimate. Residents may participate if they choose.

RECESS SESSION:

A motion was made by Alderperson Segura, seconded by Alderperson Deppe, to recess the City Council meeting to go into the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried. **7:05 p.m.**

RECONVENED SESSION:

A motion was made by Alderperson Guthrie, seconded by Alderperson Segura, to reconvened session back to City Council Meeting. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried. **7:32 p.m.**

ROLL CALL:

The following Alderpersons were present: Olivia Dorothy, Jeffrey Deppe, Larry Jones, Adam Guthrie, Lynn Segura, and Jose Rico. Absent: Rhea Oakes.

Others in Attendance: Mayor Reggie Freeman, City Administrator Mark Rothert, City Attorney Roger L. Strandlund, Finance Director Kimberly Rodriguez, Police Chief Jeff Ramsey, Wastewater Treatment Plant Director Glasglow, Water Plant Director Brianna Huber, Maintenance Department Jim Graham, Community Development Timothy Wymes, City Treasurer Glynis Lowery, and Acting City Clerk Katelyn Roberts.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION:

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION, AS APPLICABLE, UNDER THE FOLLOWING SECTION(S) OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT,

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) – To discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body.

A motion was made by Alderperson Rico, seconded by Alderperson Jones, to go into Executive Closed Session – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) - To discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried. **7:34 p.m.**

RECONVENED OPEN SESSION:

A motion was made by Alderperson Guthrie, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to return to the open session. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried. **7:44 p.m.**

ROLL CALL:

The following Alderpersons were present: Olivia Dorothy, Jeffrey Deppe, Larry Jones, Adam Guthrie, Lynn Segura, and Jose Rico. Absent: Rhea Oakes.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderperson Guthrie, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to adjourn the City Council meeting. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. **7:45 p.m.**

Minutes taken and submitted by,

Wanda Roberts-Bontz, City Clerk