

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR  
AND THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF  
THE CITY OF EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Reggie Freeman called the meeting to order and directed Acting City Clerk Katelyn Roberts to call the roll. The following Alderpersons were present: Olivia Dorothy, Jeff Deppe, Larry Jones, Adam Guthrie, Rhea Oakes, Lynn Segura, and Jose Rico. **7:09 p.m.**

**ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA**

None

**Student-Led Memorial Interpretive Trail Proposal (Mark Rothert, City Administrator)**

The Glenview Middle School Latinx Workshop is requesting assistance from the City of East Moline to support the installation of a student-led memorial interpretive trail through downtown East Moline. The project is proposed in partnership with the Clean River Advisory Council (C-RAC), Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District, and engineering firm CMT.

The proposed memorial trail will consist of four interpretive installations located at:

- Hereford Park
- Runner's Park
- The intersection of 7th Street and 12th Avenue (bicycle waystation)
- Near the levee bike path

Each installation will include interpretive displays highlighting East Moline's immigrant history. The content for the displays will be researched and developed by Glenview Middle School students as part of their Latinx Workshop curriculum. Depending on site conditions, some locations may include additional features, such as a rain garden at Hereford Park.

**Purpose and Memorial Dedication** - The trail is proposed in memory of Sergio Mendoza, a lifelong East Moline resident and son of Mexican immigrants. Sergio served on the Clean River Advisory Council and was a strong advocate for environmental stewardship, active living, and cultural diversity. During his service, he helped guide C-RAC's philanthropic investments toward projects benefiting East Moline and Glenview Middle School.

Following his unexpected passing, C-RAC seeks to honor Sergio's legacy by supporting a student-led interpretive trail that connects downtown East Moline to the bike trail Sergio enjoyed, as well as to the neighborhoods where he lived and worked.

**Funding and City Involvement** - The Clean River Advisory Council is committing up to \$20,000 toward the project. The Council is requesting in-kind support from the City of East Moline, primarily consisting of:

- Permission to install interpretive displays on City-owned property;
- Staff time related to permitting and coordination; and
- Potential assistance with installation activities, such as pouring concrete pads or mounting plaques.

The anticipated cost to the City is expected to be nominal. CMT and the Rock Island County Soil and Water assist with the design and development of the installations.

### **Proposed Timeline**

1. **May 2026:** Installation of the first trail node at Hereford Park
2. **September 2026:** Installation of the second node at Runner's Park
3. **May 2027:** Installation of the final two nodes at 12th Avenue & 7th Street and near the levee bike path

### **Next Steps**

City staff is seeking Council direction regarding permission to proceed with permitting and coordination for the proposed installations on City property. Staff would recommend that if the City permits use of the public right of way, that any interpretative installation be reviewed by the city for appropriateness before installation.

### **RECOMMENDATION/REQUESTED ACTION:** Approval

A motion was made by Alderperson Deppe, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to concur with the recommendation as presented. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Oakes, Segura, and Rico. Abstain: Dorothy. **Motion carried. 6-0 with 1 abstained**

### **Engineering Design Services – Ravine E (Tim Kammler, Director of Engineering)**

The city's Ravine Sewer Access-Way project has been an ongoing endeavor for a number of years. East Moline has miles of sanitary sewers located in ravines and rough wooded areas which do not permit ease of access for inspection and maintenance. In many areas, the city lacks easements for these utilities and their access. The boundary survey work and preliminary design for the access-ways was completed in all of the subject ravines throughout the city under previous contract. Subsequently, East Moline has retained consultants to facilitate final design, construction plans, and the necessary easement acquisition in phases to meet the city's budget constraints. Five (5) ravine access-ways have been completed, and another will soon be under construction (Ravine E) pending future council approval.

A proposal for engineering design services for the final phase of this project (Ravine E) has been obtained from Klingner Engineering and is attached for review and consideration. Details of the scope of

work to be performed include final plan, profile, and cross-section design, construction plan preparation, projects specifications, and Easement Plat preparation for 57 easements anticipated along this ravine. For construction to occur, the city must have rights to the necessary property. Land acquisition services for the necessary easements will be managed under separate contract.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Line Item #	Line-Item Title	Department	Amount Budgeted	Available Funds	Amount Requested
250-036-52925.91	Ravine E – Survey, Design	Sewer Utility	\$455,000.00	\$455,000.00	\$217,500.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			\$455,000.00	\$455,000.00	\$217,500.00

**RECOMMENDATION/REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve contract for professional engineering services.

A motion was made by Alderperson Rico, seconded by Alderperson Segura, to concur with the recommendation as presented. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Oakes, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried.

**Easement Acquisition Services – Ravine E (Tim Kammler, Director of Engineering)**

The city's Ravine Sewer Access-Way project has been an ongoing project for a number of years. East Moline has miles of sanitary sewers located in ravines and rough wooded areas which do not permit ease of access for inspection and maintenance. In many areas, the city lacks easements for these utilities and their access. The boundary survey work and preliminary design for the access-ways was completed in all of the subject ravines throughout the city under previous contract. Subsequently, East Moline has retained consultants to facilitate final design, construction plans, and the necessary easement acquisition in phases to meet the city's budget constraints. Five (5) ravine access-ways have been completed, and another will soon be under construction (Ravine B) pending future council approval.

A proposal for easement acquisition services for Ravine E has been obtained from Kaskaskia Engineering Group and is attached for review and consideration. Details of the scope of work to be performed includes outreach to impacted residents, property appraisal, easement negotiations, and legal document preparation for 57 easements along this ravine. For final design to be completed and construction to occur, the city must have rights to the necessary property.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Line Item #	Line-Item Title	Department	Amount Budgeted	Available Funds	Amount Requested
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250-036-52925.91	Ravine E – Land Acquisition	Sewer Utility	\$455,000.00	\$237,500.00	\$114,000.00
TOTALS			\$455,000.00	\$237,500.00	\$114,000.00

**RECOMMENDATION/REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve contract for easement acquisition services.

A motion was made by Alderperson Oakes, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to concur with the recommendation as presented. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Oakes, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried.

**Establishing Public Hearing Date – East Moline Connector TIF District (Mark Rothert, City Administrator)**

The City of East Moline is undertaking preliminary steps to consider the establishment of the **East Moline Connector TIF District** pursuant to the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act (65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-1 et seq.). A proposed Redevelopment Plan and Project is being prepared by Moran Economic Development, LLC, and a feasibility study and will be placed on file with the City Clerk.

The proposed TIF area includes property meeting the statutory criteria for a redevelopment project area under the Act and is intended to promote reinvestment, address qualifying conditions, and encourage private development that would not reasonably occur without the use of tax increment financing.

**Ordinance Summary:** The ordinance before the City Council accomplishes the following:

- Sets a public hearing on the proposed East Moline Connector TIF Redevelopment Plan, Project, and Redevelopment Project Area
- Establishes the public hearing date, time, and location as **6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2026, at East Moline City Hall**
- Directs staff to provide all required notices by publication and certified mail to affected property owners, taxing districts, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Authorizes the convening of a Joint Review Board in compliance with state law
- Confirms that the feasibility study and draft redevelopment plan are available for public inspection

This ordinance does **not** approve the TIF district. It is a procedural step required by statute prior to any consideration of formal TIF adoption.

**Next Steps:** Following adoption of this ordinance:

1. Required public notices will be issued.
2. The Joint Review Board will be convened.
3. The public hearing will be held on April 20, 2026
4. Following completion of statutory requirements, ordinances to establish the TIF district may be brought forward for Council consideration.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the ordinance to establish the public hearing date for the East Moline Connector TIF District to allow the public review process to proceed in accordance with state law.

**RECOMMENDATION/REQUESTED ACTION:** Approval

A motion was made by Alderperson Guthrie, seconded by Alderperson Rico, to concur with the recommendation as presented. Upon the roll call, the following voted in favor: Dorothy, Deppe, Jones, Guthrie, Oakes, Segura, and Rico. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Alderperson Oakes, seconded by Alderperson Rico to adjourn the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. **7:27 p.m.**

**Minutes taken and submitted,**

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**Wanda Roberts-Bontz, City Clerk**