



MINUTES

MOLINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall, 619 16th Street

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Council Meeting: The City Council meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. The Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Pledge: The Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: There was no Invocation.

Roll Call: Roll call was taken with Mayor Rayapati, Aldermen Williams, Macias, Wendt, Timion, Moyer, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt present. Absent: None.

Remote Electronic Attendance

Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman O'Brien, moved to approve the remote electronic attendance of Aldermen Williams, Macias, Wendt, Timion, Moyer, O'Brien, Waldron and Schmidt. Motion passed on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen Waldron, Schmidt, Williams, Macias, Wendt, Timion, Moyer and O'Brien; nays: none.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Roundtable Discussion

I-74 Redevelopment Area. Bob Vitas, City Administrator, introduced Alexandra Elias, Renew Moline President & CEO. Ms. Elias explained that the purpose of this discussion is to provide context for future decisions, as well as an overview of a very large and complex redevelopment opportunity. There has been some work completed on the vision, which will be presented, and Council direction is requested on specific projects. The redevelopment area was described. The presentation is attached. The Urban Land Institute (ULI), and Panel Leader Tom Murphy, have consulted on the project, and those findings were reviewed. The "Big Five" ideas are Mill Town Basin, Great River Park, Heart of the Arts District/Spiegel Building, Skate Park and Residential Development. Ways to make River Drive feel closer to the River were investigated.

"Mill Town Basin: A Memorable Public Space". The purpose is to attract people traveling on the new bridge to the downtown. New features were presented. There was discussion. Flood protection was discussed. There was approval of the concept and its uniqueness. Alderman Wendt advocated for inclusion of the zip line feature. Mayor Rayapati stated that a healthy balance of experiences and retail is important. Alderman Wendt suggested that inclusion of a sail that could be raised on the pier, for projecting movies, would be unique and would not be cost prohibitive. There was discussion that a water spout might be a collaboration with the City of Bettendorf and should be easily shut off when needed. Alderman Macias and Timion opined that a smaller scale water feature may be more appealing. Mayor Rayapati noted that this is a 4-season experience. Consensus of Council was approval of the Mill Town Basin concept as presented.

"Great River Park" (approximately 200 acres). Public input was presented. Bob Vitas, City Administrator, explained that there are many moving elements of this part of the I-74 corridor that require strategic development of a master plan. We are in Phase 1 of planning, and Phase 2 will include schedules and timelines. The land acquisition and assembly will take months, because it is driven by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Alexandra Elias, Renew Moline, stated that some projects are more flushed out than others, and those timelines may be more easily identified. Alderman Wendt asked if a functional and artistic bridge might be developed between Sylvan Island and the Rock Island Arsenal. Additionally, he suggested that the dam, at Sylvan Island, might be removed and a "rapids" feature created. Environmental impact and

consulting with the Corp of Engineers was discussed. Creation of a Bird Sanctuary and Adopt-an-Eagle program was suggested. Consensus of Council was approval of the Great River Park concept.

“Residential Development”. Elias explained that public input regarding downtown living indicated that affordability and great places to visit nearby are most important; people want to do things outdoors year-round.

“Skate Park & Pump Track”. Public input via online surveys of 400 participants indicated that 90 percent feel that a skate park should be included in this area (between 4th and 5th Avenues and the former 20th Street and 22nd Street). The project is estimated to cost \$35-40 per square foot. Skate Parks in Chicago, Illinois and New Albany, Indiana were presented as models. Chicago’s Logan Boulevard Skate Park also incorporates public art. Graffiti clean-up is anticipated to be a maintenance and cost issue. Offering a designated space for graffiti may be considered. Input was provided by the Public Works and Police staff. Lighting, programming and activity will improve the Park’s safety. There was discussion. Alderman Wendt suggested a partnership with the skate community to govern the Park. Support for the Skatepark & Pump Track, including an all-abilities park, was expressed. Consensus of Council was approval of the Skate Park & Pump Track concept; however, Alderman Waldron expressed his lack of support based on the history of Browning Skate Park on 16th Street.

“Spiegel Building”. This building is the anchor of the “Heart of the Arts” concept. It is now west of the bridge, making it feel more connected to the downtown. With historic character, the brick warehouse-style building is at the center of a multitude of transportation options. The plan for this building includes retail, bike rental, art gallery/museum space and a roof-top restaurant, as well as the inclusion of Ballet Quad Cities. Other ideas garnered from public input were presented. The Council was asked if it wishes to explore feasibility of “arts-based” uses at the Spiegel Building. Makers spaces and an incubator kitchen were considered. Vitas acknowledged that, since the City owns the building, development may be accelerated. This is one for the main entry points of the City from the north. The feasibility will indicate if there will be private development interest, i.e. building ownership. The building has a freight elevator, so a shaft is already there. Alderman Moyer suggested that the City could charter a non-profit organization to own and run the building, much like Pike’s Place Market in Seattle, Washington. Consensus of Council was approval of the Spiegel Building Concept.

“Spring Street Park”. The potential for public space at the former cul de sac properties (6th and 7th Avenue where 21st Street was closed, because of its proximity to this area). There was support of investigating ways to utilize this space and provide a safe road crossing for residences to the south. Landscaping to provide shade should be considered.

“19th Street Corridor”. Includes: new bike path/streetscape, potential development sites on both sides of the street, proposed public art corridor.

I-74 Redevelopment Area Master Plan: “What do you want this entry to Moline to say?” It’s 3.8 acres of extremely visible opportunity.

Form-Based Code. The purpose is to: regulate building form, not just use; ensure that the human experience at street level is positive; ensure consistent and appropriate building massing and improve aesthetics in materials. Visiting projects for lessons learned were presented. An agreement with Codametrics will be coming to Council on January 25, 2022. Public outreach will begin, and it is anticipated that it will take one year to draft an ordinance and conduct public hearings.

Vitas was asked to facilitate development of a current Economic Development Policy.

Council, Staff and Citizen Comments:

Alderman Macias stated that residential distribution of racist propaganda/stickers is upsetting. There are smart ways to dispel this activity. Documentation is important. The Moline Police and Human Rights Commission have become involved. “Hate Has No Home Here” partnership will aid in combatting the issue.

Alderman Wendt indicated that, a few months ago, this racist activity occurred in his neighborhood as well.

Alderman Wendt asked that single-serve liquor sales be brought back for discussion. Review of Chapter 4, "Alcoholic Liquor," is slated for February 15, 2022.

Alderman O'Brien commended the work of the Public Works department in clearing snow this season.

Alderman Schmidt shared that the Library is now open for Sunday hours, with high activity and many new visitors.

Bob Vitas, City Administrator, explained that recruitment efforts of key leadership positions continue.

Public Comment

There was no comment.

Executive Session:

Alderman Williams, seconded by Alderman Timion, moved for Executive Session, for the purpose of discussion of Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees-5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1). Motion carried on roll call with the following vote: ayes: Aldermen O'Brien, Waldron, Schmidt, Williams, Macias, Wendt, Timion and Moyer; nays: none.

City Council convened in Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

Council reconvened in open session at 9:10 p.m.

On motion of Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman Schmidt, Council adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on January 25, 2022. View recorded meetings at <http://www.moline.il.us/CivicMedia?CID=9>

Respectfully submitted,



Janine A. H. Parr
City Clerk