

# Headlines



## Progress on Council Goals Reported

*January 27, 2006*

At Rock Island's goal setting session September 9 and 10, 2005 [City Council](#) set top priorities for the coming year. The following is a summary of the status of each goal to date.

### TOP PRIORITIES

#### 1. Infrastructure Upgrade Plan and Long-term Funding Mechanism

**Status:**

- A. 2007-2011 CIP prepared and presented.
- B. Decision made by City Council to approve a plan to upgrade the City water system by increasing investment in water main replacement.
- C. Plan submitted to City Council for approval on January 9, 2006.

#### 2. [Columbia Park](#) Development

**Status:**

- A. Parks completed 44th Street gateway beautification project.
- B. All properties were acquired for the riverfront park development.
- C. Contract was awarded for the demolition of the old Farmall plant powerhouse.
- D. Environmental assessment and remediation at the future park site occurred.
- E. QCIC owners demolished the obsolete water tower and repainted the extension of parts of the facility.
- F. McLaughlin Body continued work to relocate the paint operation to the QCIC facility.

#### 3. Casino Rock Island Relocation and Related Opportunities

**Status:**

- A. Illinois Gaming Board approved the relocation of the project to the proposed site. The project design is underway and the financing structure is being finalized by the Casino Rock Island.
- B. Groundbreaking is expected in April 2006.

#### **4. RiverVision Plan Implementation**

**Status:**

- A. Schrieber-Anderson presented three options for review on the design of the riverfront. The public and City Council have provided feedback.
- B. An intergovernmental agreement with the City of Davenport was approved to design the lighting of the lock and dam. Consultant selection is underway.

#### **5. Armory Plan Completion and Implementation**

**Status:**

- A. Hendricks Development was selected to study the feasibility of redevelopment of the Rock Island Armory.
- B. Report was presented suggesting limited redevelopment potential for the structure.

#### **6. Blackhawk Road Corridor Retail Development**

**Status:**

- A. City completed the public improvements south of Blackhawk Road at 30th Street to provide access for future retail development.
- B. Property was acquired to allow the extension of the widening of Blackhawk Road.

### **HIGH PRIORITIES**

#### **1. Property Tax Relief Strategy and Actions**

**Status:**

- A. City tax levy was proposed that would increase the levy by 3 percent. The City's tax rate would decline by 8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- B. City Council approved the levy on December 12, 2005.

#### **2. Long-Term Control Plan for Wastewater System**

**Status:**

- A. Recommendation from the Water Resource Committee was presented to the City Council in November.
- B. A public hearing is scheduled for January 26th. Meetings with neighborhood and business groups and large customers are underway.
- C. The CIP included funding to begin implementation of the plan.

### 3. Rental Housing Inspection Program

**Status:**

- A. Program implementation continued in the last quarter of 2005.

### 4. Martin Luther King Community Operating, Funding, and Partnerships

**Status:**

- A. MLK Board is considering establishing a foundation similar to the Library Foundation.
- B. State and federal resources are being explored.

### 5. Armory Park Direction and Actions

**Status:**

- A. Schrieber and Anderson prepared three schematic concepts for the riverfront design.
- B. Meeting with City Council and other stakeholders took place. A preferred option was selected by the City Council.
- C. Planning for Armory Park has been delayed until a decision on the Armory can be made.

### 6. Southwest Andalusia Road Retail Development

**Status:**

- A. No progress this quarter.

## OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITY

### 1. City Operations

**Status:**

- A. Animal ordinance was revised to clarify language and definitions.
- B. Hired Coordinator for Lead Based Paint Grant.
- C. Proposal on providing water to Rock Island Arsenal was submitted.
- D. Carts and trucks for automated refuse collection were purchased and delivered. Joint bid with Moline saved \$100,000 annually over the prior contract. Implementation scheduled for February 6, 2006.
- E. Community Development Block Grant allocations were approved.
- F. Legislative consultant was hired to help obtain federal support for City priorities.

## 2. Personnel

### Status:

- A. Mayor and City Council selected Cindy Neiggemann for the position of [City Clerk](#).
- B. Joint Administration Agreement was approved by the City and bargaining units for managing the City's health care program.
- C. Key positions were filled in the [Parks Department](#).
- D. Arbitration decisions were obtained and contracts were settled with the Federal Order of Police and Correctional Officers.

## 3. Public Safety

### Status:

- A. Incident Command Training was conducted for city personnel to comply with Homeland Security requirements.
- B. A School Resource Officer position was established with support from School District 41. The program started in the fall.
- C. An amendment to the Liquor Ordinance was approved prohibiting the sale of 4 ounce bottles of liquor in Rock Island. The 11<sup>th</sup> Street liquor license moratorium was extended for one year.
- D. An ordinance was passed that prohibits aggressive panhandling and restricts the hours for panhandling in the city.

## 4. Technology

### Status:

- A. The City entered into a three-year contract with SBC for voice communications.
- B. Phase II of the fiber installation was completed that will reduce the cost of data communications.
- C. A consultant was selected with other local governments to study broadband services in Rock Island County.
- D. Mobile data terminals were purchased and installed in police vehicles.
- E. Police Department converted to electronic, paperless report preparation.
- F. Golf software was purchased.

## 5. Development

### Status:

- A. A revised development agreement for the Prairie View Business Park development was approved.

- B. Eleventh Street gateway was improved through property acquisition and demolition.
- C. MetroBank opened a new Rock Island facility in the former Illinois Casualty Building on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- D. Steel Warehouse made a decision to begin a 40,000 square foot expansion.
- E. KJWW submitted plans to purchase property to accommodate a major expansion at their Rock Island location. The City Council approved the vacation of 26th Avenue with specified conditions.
- F. The New/Old Chicago planning process is underway. A meeting of stakeholders was held to obtain ideas for redevelopment for the area.

## **6. Renaissance Rock Island**

### **Status:**

- A. Reorganization of Renaissance Rock Island was approved by the affiliates of Renaissance Rock Island.
- B. The capital campaign is underway. The City increased its contribution to DARI for 2006-2007.
- C. Recruitment for the vacant position of President is underway.
- D. Community marketing advertisement campaign continued in print media throughout the Quad Cities through December 2005.
- E. The [LiveRI website](#) averaged 75 to 80 hits per day.