

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF  
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS  
January 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 15, 2013 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David Blanton, City Clerk, William Wescott, called the roll following the pledge of allegiance, present was Ald. Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom and Watts. In addition, City Attorney Jim Reese and Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED ANNEXATION AGREEMENT

City Council is conducting a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony regarding a proposed Annexation Agreement governing the annexation of a tract of property comprising approximately 17.28 acres generally bounded by the Rock Falls City Limits on the East, Louis Johnson Subdivision on the South and the Hennepin Feeder Canal on the West. The subject property is proposed to be zoned A-1 Agricultural Use with a Special Use permit for operation of a Recreational Vehicle Park and campground.

Mayor Blanton called the Public Hearing to order at the hour of 6:32 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance in addition to the members of the Council and City Department Heads; Rick and Brenda Humphrey, 1556 Rt. 52 Dixon, Illinois; Brent Porter, 1903 New High Street, Rock Falls, Illinois; Mr. Derick Burge, 603 Bourbon Street, Rock Falls, Illinois; Betty Appenzeller, 1811 New High Street, Rock Falls, Illinois; Allen Boseneiler, 802 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Rock Falls, Illinois. Two (2) of those in attendance rose and addressed the Council:

- Mrs. Appenzeller asked the Council if it was not still a requirement for adjacent property owners to be notified of annexation if they were within 250 feet of said property. Mr. Reese answered yes. However, the hearing at hand is for approval of the annexation agreement only and the matter of annexation and zoning is still to be considered, and she will be receiving notice of that process in which is to occur in February. She thanked the Council.
- Mr. Burge asked three questions of the Council:
  1. Does the annexation being considered involve all of the Lewis Subdivision in addition to the 17.28 acres? Council response was no.
  2. Once the annexation is complete, will the property be fenced in on the south side to prevent traffic and pedestrian traffic on New High and the adjacent other roadways? Council responded yes, all traffic enter the RV park on East 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
  3. Does the City have plans on adjusting the speed limit on Route 30 to provide some safety for slow moving traffic and wide load vehicles turning off onto Industrial Park road, as well as , Crystal Lake? Mayor Blanton responded that any discussion concerning speed limits, would need to be addressed to the State as the roadway is property of the State of Illinois. Mr. Burge thanked the Council for their time and considerations.
- City Clerk Wescott reported that no written or verbal comments had been received in his office to be included into the record.

Hearing none, Mayor Blanton called for adjournment of the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m...

**AUDIENCE REQUEST:**

- Mr. Allen Boseneiler, 802 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Rock Falls; requested to address the Council. He began by making statements about his recent attendance at the City of Morrison, Illinois Council meeting. Comparing the manner in which the meeting was conducted to that of Rock Falls. He then began to make comments concerning the recent Electoral Board Hearing and was told by Mayor Blanton that he would not be allowed to discuss those matters.

A brief verbal exchange between Mayor Blanton and Mr. Boseneiler occurred. Mayor Blanton told Mr. Boseneiler that his time was up and he need to sit down or he would have him escorted from the meeting. Mr. Boseneiler obliged the request.

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:**

- Sandy Henriken, Executive Director of the RFCDC introduced Mr. David Schreiber; SAA Design Group; Mr. Ryan Garcia; SAA Design Group and Mr. Geoff Dickinson; SB Friedman Development Advisors who are going to provide the Council with an update on the RB&W Master Plan and the Market Study Results which have been completed. The men presented the program in the form of a power point presentation, which is to be attached to the minutes as permanent record.  
In general the 2009 Plan and its impact were reviewed including the Reliant Site Cleanup; RFCDC's Vision ofr the Riverfront; Riverfront Trail; and Destination thinking. Work is underway to be included in the National Water Trail Designation; as well as, the recently completed 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Bridge project. The Riverfront Project is not just about the Riverfront, but as importantly the other aspects of the Downtown area as well. To reach the maximum effectiveness we must make it a destination for tourism and entertainment and leverage the many unique assets of our community.  
Financing will be required and the funding approach should be varied and include public money, special assessments, and grants when available even if matching funds are required. This is a key component to funding the long term commitment. In addition, partnerships that are not currently in place with the RFCDC, Park District and Downtown Businesses need to be expanded and solidified. From the City's perspective; leadership, development of the public space and development of the regulations that will shape the Riverfront. The Council thanked the presenters for the program.
- Bethany Bland, President/CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber presented the Year in review and highlighted the numerous activities, the elements of internal restructuring and celebrated the continued volunteerism that makes it all work. She talked about the relationship between the Chamber and the City and highlighted several upcoming events. On February 7th, the Chamber will host the Annual Chamber Dinner and on February 21<sup>st</sup>, "Market Mingle" which will be replacing the Business after Hours Programs.

**Ordinance: First Reading**

1. 2013 – 2093: An Ordinance amending the Wastewater Service Rates and Charges, Section 15-266. Basis, Rates and Charges for Sewage Service.  
*Motion: Ald. Vandersnick; Second: Ald. Snow to approve the Ordinance as presented for first reading.*  
*Vote: (8) Ayes, motion carried.*

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2013
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Approve the Employment Agreement between the City of Rock Falls and Greg Johnson, Operations Manager of the Electric Utility Department with said agreement being for the period December 1, 2012 through April 30, 2014.
4. Approve at the request of the Public Works Committee issuance of an RFP (Request for Proposal) for Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Service for the Period beginning July 1, 2013, at the request of the Public Works Committee.

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5. Approve at the recommendation of the Public Works Committee Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation (BLR5310); Dixon Avenue (FAU 5560) (0.6 mile) from the East side of the Hennepin Canal Bridge to Luke Lane. The City must appropriate a minimum of \$50,000 to cover our share of the project costs.
6. Approve at the recommendation of the Public Works Committee Final Pay Estimate #9 and change order in plans #7 for the East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Avenue A Project to Northwest Illinois Construction in the amount of \$8,995.10.
7. Approve the recommendation of the Planning/Zoning Commission for the annexation of 1004 E. Route 30 (State of Illinois Highway Garage) into the City limits of Rock Falls.

*Motion: Ald. Hand; Second: Ald. Folsom to accept the consent agenda as presented for adoption.*

*Attorney Reese spoke to item #7, and informed the Council that at the next meeting a Resolution will be introduced to finalize the annexation of the property identified. Vote: (8) Ayes, motion carried.*

City Administrator: Robbin D. Blackert

- Adm. Blackert presented several items of information:
  1. Reminded the residents of the corporate City limits to return the Leaf Burning Survey's they received if they have not. She estimated that close to 1000 have been returned for consideration.
  2. Advised the Council that the Finance Committee will begin the 2013-2014 Budget process in February.

Information/Correspondence:

- William B. Wescott, City Clerk read two (2) thank cards of appreciation received from Families suffering recent losses.
  1. Thank you from the Larry R. Smith Family (Ald. Daehle Reitzel Son-in-Law)
  2. Thank you from the Mason Bell Family (Previous Ald. and Mayor)

Department Heads:

- Electric- Mr. Simon brought forth the following:
  1. Request the Council to authorize the hiring of Christopher M. McKnight for the Lineman Apprentice position with the City of Rock Falls Electric Utilities, with verification of the passage of his employment physical. *Motion: Ald. Hand; Second: Ald. Kuhlemier to hire Christopher M. McKnight as an Apprentice Lineman for the City of Rock Falls Electric Utilities, upon verification of his successfully completed physical and drug testing results. Vote: (8) Ayes, motion carried.*

Ward Reports:

- Ald. Snow thanked the members of the Electric Utilities for their rapid response to the power loss in the City last month and everyone who offered assistance in the Customer Utility Office during the outage.
- Ald. Watts requested the citizens of the City to take actions to clear the sidewalks in front of their residents of snow and ice. Many children and seniors utilize these passages for mobility and safety of all should be a paramount importance to all of us.

**Mayor's Report:**

1. Request acceptance of recommendation to appoint Ms. Emily Witt, as a member of the ADA Review Committee to fill the position vacated by Kathy Fischer who recently retired from NICIL.

*Motion: Ald. Kuhlémier; Second: Ald. Snow to approve the recommendation of Emily Witt to the position previously held by Kathy Fischer. Vote: (8) Ayes, motion carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other business to come before the Council, Mayor Blanton request motion to adjourn. *Motion: Ald. Folsom; Second: Ald. Reitzel to adjourn the meeting. Vote: (8) Ayes, motion carried. OUT: (7:46 p.m.)*

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk