

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND  
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

August 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the Council Chambers of Rock Falls by Mayor William B. Wescott.

City Clerk Eric Arduini called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A Quorum was present including Mayor William B. Wescott, Aldermen Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Snow was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

**Special Recognition**

Mayor Wescott introduced the 9-10 year old Rock Falls Little League Softball All Stars Team who won the District Tournament in Rock Falls, the Section 1 Tournament in Freeport, and repeated as the Illinois 9-10 Year Old State Champions for the second consecutive year, defeating Norridge Little League 11-0 in the finals at Veterans Park in Peru, Illinois. Along with congratulating them, he presented medals to the players. A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Vandersnick to approve a proclamation making the day of August 21, 2013 "LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL 9-10 YEAR OLD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DAY IN ROCK FALLS." Alderman Schuneman stated that he is very proud of this team.

**Viva Voce Vote - Motion Carried**

Mayor Wescott introduced the 13-14 year old Rock Falls Junior League All-Stars Team who won the District Tournament in Rock Falls, the Sectional Tournament in Mendota and the 2013 Junior League State Championship series at Foley Park in Spring Valley, by defeating Evergreen park 8-7. By virtue of their win, they advanced to the Central Regional Tournament in Fort Wayne, Indiana representing Illinois and a chance to advance to the World Series. In Pool play after a loss in their opening game to Fargo, North Dakota (9-4), they then defeated DeSotto, Missouri (11-1); Bedford, Indiana (8-4) and Duluth, Minnesota (16-12) to finish pool play with a record of 3-1. They advanced to the Final four (4) and lost to Midland, Michigan (8-6). Along with congratulating the team, Mayor Wescott presented medals to the players. A motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Watts to approve a proclamation

making the day of August 22, 2013 "JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 13-14 YEAR OLD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DAY IN ROCK FALLS." Alderman Schuneman said he would also like to thank the coaches, organizers, and parents for their hard work as well.

**Viva Voce Vote - Motion Carried**

**Community Affairs:**

Adm. Blackert shared some information from the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, and stated that they will be forming a membership committee shortly. She also reminded everyone of the Bridge the Community 5K-10K Run and Fiesta Parade on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. She also informed the council that preparations have begun for this year's Home Town Holidays celebration to be held November 21-24, 2013 in downtown Rock Falls.

Alderman Kuhlemier spoke on the Tourism's behalf, and stated that the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council Dinner held in Lake Carroll was well attended.

**Ordinance First Reading:**

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Watts to approve Ordinance 2013 - 2121 Amendment to Section 13-116 Street Numbering System.

**Viva Voce Vote - Motion Carried**

**Ordinance Second Reading/ Adoption**

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Schuneman to approve Ordinance 2013 - 2120 Agreement between the city of Rock Falls and the IBEW Local 196 Clerical Employees.

**Vote 7ayes, motion carried**

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 City Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented

A motion was made by Alderman Hand to accept the Consent Agenda, and second by Folsom

**Viva Voce Vote - Motion Carried**

## **City Administrator Report**

City Administrator Robbin Blackert presented the council with an informational brochure concerning the "Limestone Building". She stated that the city is applying for a \$200,000 Assessment Grant, and that public awareness of the property is not only a necessary part of qualifying for the grant, but for the safety of everyone. The building is in very bad shape, and it is dangerous for anyone to enter it because the floors, and walls are falling apart. She reported that there is also asbestos in the building. The first draft of the grant has gone to Terracon, and there will be meetings, and more discussion in the future about the site. Brian Frickenstein explained that the biggest concern is the floor system, and traffic to the lower dam has been blocked from using the road on the West side of the building due to safety concerns. Alderman Watts stated that this building had quite a few posts about it on the cities Facebook page, but even people that had hoped to see it restored can now clearly see that this is impossible.

Administrator Blackert announced that the Illinois Comptroller's Office will be coming to Rock Falls to train our personnel, and test the new system called iDrop. Rock Falls will be the first in the state to use this new program for collections. She stated that Rock Falls was chosen for this beta test because when Robbin went to Springfield last year we were one of the first communities to show interest, and we keep record more thoroughly than many municipalities. Robbin commended Stephanie Johnson for her hard work on the current comptroller program. Mayor Wescott added that Judy Baar Topinka (Illinois Comptroller) recently spoke about the program during an IMEA meeting, and recognized Rock Falls.

## **Department Heads**

Electric Supervisor Dick Simon requested the approval of Engel Electric to do meter points, and SCADA work in the amount of \$16,320.00. A motion to approve the work was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Folsom.

**Vote 7 ayes motion carried**

## **Alderman Reports**

Alderman Mark Vandernick reminded everyone that school is back in session, and to keep an eye out for children and pedestrians.

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier informed the council that the Byron Nuclear Plant is in the process of renewing its license, and he made a motion that the city draft a letter of support for the Byron Nuclear Plant. This motion was second by Alderman Folsom.

**Viva Voce Vote - Motion carried**

Alderman David Hand has received many positive comments about the streets that were repaired in the third ward.

Alderman Jim Schuneman thanked the IDNR for mowing along the Hennepin Canal

Alderman Watts spoke about the Optimist Club "Touch-A-Truck" event held on August 10<sup>th</sup> at the RB&W District. He thanked the City and employees for helping make the event a success by bringing trucks down to the riverfront for families to see. He also thanked Sterling for their trucks, and the rescue helicopter team. Mayor Wescott congratulated Mr. Watts on organizing such a successful event.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wescott observed the "National Night Out" event that took place at Centennial Park on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He understood that it was a successful event, and he was sorry that members of the city could not attend as it was held at the same time as the Rock Falls City Council meeting.

Mayor Wescott spoke about the 5K-10K Bridge the Community Run that is being held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Route 40 bridge will be closed at 7:30 a.m. and at 8:30 there will be a children's dash for ages 10 and under across the bridge. At 9:00 a.m. the 5K and 10K runs will begin. The Fiesta Parade will begin at Noon. There will be an organizational meeting for volunteers on September 9<sup>th</sup> to assign tasks ahead of the event.

After giving many kind words about a man who had "longevity, loyalty, and leadership" Mr. Wescott read the resignation letter from J.W. Larson the Fire Chief of Rock Falls. Alderman Hand stated that J.W. was an excellent Chief, and was always positive. Alderman Kuhlemier commented that he had the opportunity to re-appoint him many times over the years, and he will be missed. Administrator Blackert said that having J.W. as Chief helped make her first two years with the city easy, and she would describe him as "steady". Alderman Reitzel questioned who is going to keep the old truck running, and who will drive it. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier to accept J.W. Larson's resignation with his last day being September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 second by Vandersnick.

### **Viva Voce Vote - Motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by alderman Folsom to enter executive session for purchase or lease of real estate section 2(c)(5), and collective bargaining section 2 (c)(2) at 7:28 p.m.

### **Vote 7 ayes motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

### **Viva Voce Vote - Motion carried**