

Mayor Wescott opened the joint meeting of the Sterling and Rock Falls City Councils at 6:30 pm in the Rock Falls City Council Chambers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor William Wescott asked for roll call of the Rock Falls Council. Present Aldermen Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Folsom, and Watts. Absent: Hand.

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee asked for roll call of the Sterling Council. Present: Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Absent: Alderman Cox.

Also present were retired Sterling Fire Chief Arlyn Oetting, Rock Falls Fire Chief J W Larson, Rock Falls Deputy Chief Gary Cook, Sterling Captain Mike Dettman, and Rock Falls Captain Bill Milby.

Mayor Bill Wescott welcomed the Sterling City Council and stated that it has been a long time coming. This meeting has been warmly received. Mayor Wescott recognized two individuals: Fire Chief J W Larson from Rock Falls who will be retiring September 27 with 38 years of service, 25 years as chief, and Arlyn Oetting retired from the Sterling Fire Department after 44 years of services and 29 years as chief.

Sterling Mayor "Skip" Lee stated that he was excited to be here and thanked Mayor Wescott for the welcome. This proves how we can work together. Mayor Lee indicated that he is proud to be here.

Mayor Wescott asked that the fire situation be explained before it is placed on the table for action.

Rock Falls City Administrator Robbin Blackert explained that Rock Falls and Sterling first entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement in 2010 when Deputy Chief Gary Cook's time was shared between the two departments. In 2012 Matrix conducted a study on what's possible for the two communities. In November she presented the findings. Their best advice was to continue the present sharing and expand cooperative efforts. Thanks to City Manager Scott Shumard, Mayor Skip Lee, and Assistant to the City Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos in Sterling this agreement was reached. This agreement is in the best interests of both cities and our residents.

Adm. Blackert explained that the costs would be a 61% -39% split due to the population, and that the reimbursement to Rock Falls from Sterling for the first year will be \$6406.00 per month.

Manager Shumard stated that Administrator Blackert did an excellent job with the summary and thanked her for all of her work on this agreement.

Alderman Vandersnick made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2013-2126 to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Cities of Rock Falls and Sterling for Consolidation of Fire Administration Duties**; seconded by Alderman Watts. Voting: Ayes- Aldermen Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Shuneman, Folsom, and Watts. Nays - None

Attorney Reese noted the date was not filled in the agreement and asked for the appropriate date. Administrator Blackert stated the effective date would be September 28, 2013.

Alderman Vandersnick amended his motion to include the date of September 28; seconded by Alderman Watts.
Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass **Ordinance No. 2013-09-25 to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Cities of Rock Falls and Sterling for Consolidation of Fire Administration Duties**; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Wescott introduced the individuals filling the positions for the Twin City Joint Fire Command. Chief Gary Cook will be shared between the communities. Captain Bill Milby will be the Rock Falls Deputy Chief and Mike Dettman will be the Sterling Deputy Chief.

Chief Cook stated that it is a privilege and honor to serve the citizens of Rock Falls and Sterling. Chief Cook noted that a joint meeting took place about 15 years ago when the Fire Departments implemented automatic fire aid.

Alderman Reitzel made a motion to pass **Ordinance No. 2013-2129 Amending the Enterprise Zone** to include the Lee Wayne Plaza in Sterling at the intersection of Freeport Road and East Lincolnway; seconded by Alderman Snow.

Alderman Kuhlemier wanted to remind the council that the "One Stop Shop" for State Offices was to be held in the remodeled RB&W building, and that because of actions taken by Sterling City Manager Shumard the project was stopped and the offices stayed in the current Sterling locations until recently.

Alderman Watts acknowledged that there is a history between Sterling and Rock Falls, but it is very important to remember what Sterling Mayor Skip Lee quotes often, that we are one community with two cities. We need to work together for the benefit of both towns, and the community. He cited the upcoming Bridge the Community Race as an example of Sterling and Rock Falls coming together, and he urged to let the past be the past. Voting: Ayes – Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Folsom, and Watts. Nays – None. Motion Carried

Mayor Lee credited the "Two Cities One Community" quote to former Rock Falls Mayor David Blanton.

Alderman Martin made a motion to pass **Ordinance No. 2013-09-26 Amending the Enterprise Zone** to include the Lee Wayne Plaza in Sterling at the intersection of Freeport Road and East Lincolnway; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Folsom from Rock Falls made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Alderman Reitzel. Voice vote; motion carried

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Sotelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.