

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

December 3rd, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. December 3rd, 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Reitzel was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Mayor Wescott informed the council that Alderman Reitzel is in the hospital recovering from surgery.

Community Affairs

Alderman Kuhlemier informed the council that Tim Wilson from the Rock Falls Tourism Office is working on a monthly newsletter to present to the council to keep them up to date.

Ordinance: First reading

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Schuneman to approve the first reading of the following ordinances,

1. Approval of Ordinance 2013-2140 amending Sec. 7-78 of the Rock Falls municipal code for employees appointed by the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
2. Approval of Ordinance 2013-2141 amending Sec. 8-870 of the Rock Falls municipal code concerning rules for bucket brigades
3. Approval of Ordinance 2013-2142 approving a contract for the sale of renewable energy credits.
4. Approval of Ordinance 2013-2144 Tax abatement for electric bond
5. Approval of Ordinance 2013-2145 Tax abatement for motor fuel tax bond
6. Approval of Ordinance 2013-2146 Approving the lease of motor vehicles - Police

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Hand to accept the consent agenda by omnibus designation.

1. Approve the Minutes of the November 19th, 2013 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Approve the lease agreement for 5 years with IDNR in the amount of \$500.00
4. Resolution 2013-671 for Maintenance of Streets and Highways – IDOT
5. Resolution 2013-672 approving the proposal for a broadband strategic plan not to exceed \$58,800 with Magellan pending the city attorney's review and approval.

Vote 7 ayes, motion carried

City Administrator: Robbin D. Blackert

Administrator Blackert reported to the council on the income from the city's portion of revenue generated from the video gaming machines in the city. She explained that the city will take in around \$42,000, and that is enough to pay for one of the new Police squads.

Mrs. Blackert explained a new program that the Finance committee is recommending be adopted by the city. This is a utility reimbursement grant aimed to spur redevelopment for homes and apartments in town. This grant will reimburse some of the utility costs for owners in the first year of buying and rehabbing a house or multifamily rental. The amount of reimbursement will be based on the amount spent on the building permit. The utility bills will be paid by the new owner, and if they apply, and are approved within the first year, they will be reimbursed part of their utility charges. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that he supports this program, and made a motion that the council adopt this policy for utility reimbursement. A second to support this was made by Alderman Watts.

Vote 7 ayes, motion carried

Administrator Blackert presented the council with a spreadsheet illustrating the facts of the 2014 tax levy. She informed the council that the equalized assessed value had decreased by almost 2 million dollars this year. She also explained that of all of the levy tax dollars 47% of it is used to fund retirement accounts. She commented that there will not be any reason for a truth in taxation hearing this year, but it may be needed in the future. Alderman Kuhlemier thanked Robbin, the department heads, and city employees for helping hold the line on spending. A motion to approve the first reading of the tax levy Ordinance number 2013-2143 was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Hand

Vote 7 ayes, motion carried

Ward Reports

Alderman Mark Vandersnick congratulated the Newman Comets Football team for winning the Illinois State Championship.

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier thanked Robbin for her excellent work on preparing the 2014 tax levy.

Alderman Brian Snow congratulated Jacob Snow, the coaches, and parents of the teammates on the Newman High School Football team. He remarked that it is great to have a win like that locally.

Alderman Jim Schuneman also congratulated the Newman team. He also informed the council that the bald eagles are back along 2nd Street, and he counted 24 of them last weekend.

Alderman John Watts wished Alderman Reitzel a speedy recovery. He stated that he had worked with the Optimist club on a food drive to stock up the local food banks. He also wanted to thank the Water Department for their updates on Facebook of boil orders, and information. He reported that Brad Icenogle has provided the City's Facebook page with many professional pictures of the eagles along the riverfront. The pictures have received 1100 views. He stated that if anyone has eagle pictures that they would like to share with the city to please submit them to info@visitrockfalls.com.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wescott introduced a puppet named Elwood to the council. This puppet was created by one of his best friends Doug Hand around 1980. This dummy has been inspiring Rock Falls' students to do things that they were told they can't do. Elwood has travelled 5.7 million miles in a Tupperware box, has been to 50 states, 17 countries, 5 continents, and was even in the space shuttle. Mayor Westcott's wife Linda travelled to Hungary with Elwood, Mr. Hand, and seven students by request of the president of Hungary. He stated that the idea of the 3Ds (Dream, Desire, and Determination) is what kids should learn, and Elwood helped teach that. Mr. Doug Hand is very ill, and currently in hospice care. This is the first time Elwood was able to go to city hall to meet a Rock Falls Mayor, and he will be at city hall all week. The council gave Elwood and Doug Hand a standing ovation.

Executive Session

A motion was made to go into executive session for Section 2 (c)(5) Purchase or lease of real estate, and Section 2 (c)(11) Threatened or pending litigation by Alderman Snow, and second by Watts.

Vote 7 Aye motion carried. The Council entered into executive session at 7:07 p.m.

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom to adjourn, and second by Snow at 7:33 p.m.

Eric Arduini, City Clerk