

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

October 21st, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. October 21st, 2014 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 Reitzel, Logan, Kuhlemier, Snow, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Community Affairs:

Tim Wilson from the Rock Falls Tourism office stated that this is the time for representatives to circulate selling advertisements for next year's publications. Mr. Wilson also announced that he has been appointed to the Tri-State Tourism Council. This organization serves Illinois Iowa, and Wisconsin. He is the first from Whiteside County to serve on the council.

Ordinance First Reading:

1. Ordinance 2014-2181 Amending Section 9-168 Resident parking on sections on West 2nd Street and 12th Avenue.
2. Ordinance 2014-2182 Amending Section 9-21 for a speed limit of 30mph on Buell Road.
3. Ordinance 2014-2183 Amending Section 15-422. Burning

Alderman Schuneman asked that Ordinance 2014-2182 be removed for separate consideration.

Alderman Dave Hand asked what had been changed in the ordinance concerning burning. City Attorney James Reese explained that language was added concerning rebuttable presumption to clarify that if a burn is occurring, it has been permitted by the lawful occupant or landowner. A motion to approve the first reading of Ordinances 2014-2181, and 2014-2183 was made by Alderman Watts, and second by Alderman Folsom.

Vote 8 aye motion carried

Alderman Kuhlemier inquired to Commander Tammy Nelson if there have been many accidents along Buell Road. Cmd. Nelson stated that there had been one accident in ten years related to speeding on Buell Road.

Alderman Hand thought that the speed limit had originally been 30, but it was raised due to the 55 mph zone coming into town from the south.

Alderman Schuneman questioned the City's jurisdiction in setting the speed limit with the street being designated as an FAU route. City Engineer Brian Frickenstein stated that the

Federal Aid designation did not affect the jurisdiction of setting this speed limit. Mr. Schuneman also reminded the council he supports the Police, and that Police Chief Kuelper was not in favor of the change.

Alderman Kuhlemier asked what the cost of the sign changes would be, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert informed the Council that the cost would be around \$1000, and these signs were replaced last year.

Alderman John Watts agrees in supporting the Police and the Chief, but for the safety of the residents, and the neighborhoods he supports the change.

Alderman Daehle Reitzel suggests that a more graduated reduction in speed may work rather than going from 55mph to 30mph.

Alderman George Logan Jr. stated that there are more residents who would like to see this changed other than the one who complained. A motion to approve the first reading was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Watts.

Vote 2ayes (Logan, Watts) 6nay (Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom) motion failed

Resolution for Approval:

City Attorney Reese asked that the resolution be considered with minor changes concerning 2nd Street, and Avenue A. A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Folsom to approve Resolution 2014-698 Authorizing Execution of an agreement for access to the RB&W Property.

Vote 6 Aye, motion carried (Aldermen Reitzel, and Logan recused themselves from this vote)

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 7th, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented
3. Resolution 2014-694 consideration of standards for net metering
4. Resolution 2014-695 approving a net metering policy for credits to customers for generated energy
5. Resolution 2014-696 parade permit request "Hometown Holidays"
6. Resolution 2014-697 formal protest of the closing of the Comcast customer service office.
7. Grant Authority for Mayor to sign the Amendment to License Agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources to permit installation by City of Rock Falls of ADA compliant sidewalk connecting Arduini Boat Launch Ramp to East Second Street
8. Engineering Agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates for Riverfront RB&W District

9. Authorization for letter to be drafted for removal of the acreage included in the Option to Purchase with A. Hana Growers, LLC from the Sewer Plant Farm Lease

Mayor Wescott asked that item number 8 be removed for a separate vote. A motion to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation with the removal item number 8 was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Logan.

Mayor Wescott stated that the city has received many complaints about Comcast's decision to remove their customer service office from Rock Falls. He stated that he has looked over the franchise agreement, and there is little that the city can do. The City Clerk will mail a copy of this resolution and a letter to the State officials, as well as Comcast.

Vote 8 Aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to approve item number 8 from the consent agenda (Engineering Agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for Riverfront RB&W District).

City Administrator Robbin Blackert stated that Willett Hofmann has done a lot of work on the project up to this point. Mayor Wescott and Matt Hanson will be going to Springfield to give a presentation in hopes of receiving an OSLAD grant for the green space. The city is using no TIF bonds to finance the riverfront development at this point. The work being done in the area is coming from TIF money generated from the property taxes in that area itself, and not from other property owners.

Vote 6 Aye, Motion Carried (Aldermen Reitzel, and Logan recused themselves from this vote)

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert

Administrator Blackert wanted to apologize for anyone who called City Hall recently, and was disconnected. The city has just finished installing its new phone system, and has been working through some issues.

Finance Committee Chairman Glen Kuhlemier:

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that all of the Aldermen had received a draft copy of the audit, and had time to review it. He stated that this was a different crew than who has conducted the audit in the past, so some of their comments were different. He stated that the city will be hosting an RFP for auditors for next year, the city will be looking to institute a new policy for an RFP being done every 3 years. A motion to accept the audit of financial statements was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Watts.

Vote 8 Aye, motion carried

Information/Correspondence:

City Clerk Eric Arduini informed the Council that he just returned from the Illinois Municipal Clerks Institute in Springfield, and he has given a report from the training to each Alderman.

Department Heads:

Building Inspector Mark Searing reported that the city has received an abandoned property grant for \$67,000 helping to pay for houses that the city has cleaned up or demolished. He thanks Deputy Clerk Michelle Conklin for her hard work helping the city receive the grant.

Ward Reports:

Ward 2:

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier reported that he went to the IMEA 30th Anniversary conference in Springfield. He stated that the IMEA coal power plants are a great example of clean coal technology. He also stated that there is confusion for drivers as they enter the town from the toll way as to which direction to go to buy gasoline. He would like to see signs installed for the aid of visitors.

Alderman Snow reminded residents to be careful during the upcoming Halloween holiday, and to watch for children, and not to burn yard waste on that day.

Ward 3:

Alderman David Hand wishes everyone a safe Halloween

Alderman Jim Schuneman commented on the trip to the IMEA conference. He is thankful that the city had the foresight to get involved and be a founding member of the IMEA. He said that they are top notch folks.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott spoke about the upcoming ½ cent sales tax referendum. He stated that the city will have the paperwork in place in December to have it placed on the April ballot. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be used for an informational meeting for the public.

Mayor Wescott spoke about the OSLAD grant that he will be giving a presentation about in Springfield. There were originally 118 communities seeking \$37.2M in funding for projects. The list is now down to 74 cities at \$24.3M.

Mayor Wescott also thanked everyone for the flowers, cards, and kind words regarding the loss of this mother in law. He said the support means a lot to his family.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Logan to enter executive session for discussion of closed session minutes Section 2(c)(21).

Vote 8aye, motion carried

Executive Session began at 7:10pm

Executive Session ended at 7:17pm

Any action taken from Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Schuneman to keep all of the closed session minutes reviewed by the Council closed.

Vote 8aye, motion carried**Adjournment**

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 7:18pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk