

# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

## ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

November 18th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. November 18th, 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 Logan, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom and Watts. Aldermen Reitzel was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

### **Proclamation:**

Janna Groharing, Executive Director of Sterling Main Street spoke briefly about "Small Business Saturday" which is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The regional event is made to promote shopping locally at our small businesses, and is supported by Rock Falls, Sterling and Dixon. A proclamation giving support to the event was read by Clerk Arduini. A motion to approve the proclamation was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Hand.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

Joan Padilla approached the council to speak about the ILGIVESBIG DAY Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 for the Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center. She explained that the Home of Hope is supported only by donations. Clerk Arduini read a proclamation. Alderman Logan made a motion, and second by Alderman Folsom proclaiming December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 "ILGIVESBIG Day for the Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Center" in the city of Rock Falls.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

### **Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

Police Chief Michael Kuelper explained Ordinance 2014-2186 Amendment for collection of sex offender registration act registration, and renewal fee. He stated that this will make us compliant with the new state law, and the fees collected will be split between the city and state. Attorney Reese added that this can be handled through the city adjudication system. A motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2014-2186 was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the November 4th, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented

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

**Vote 7aye, motion carried**

### **City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:**

City Administrator Robbin Blackert apologized for the Veteran's Day Flags not being put up in time for Veteran's Day. Adm. Blackert stated that there were many calls to city hall about this, and the city did not mean any disrespect to veterans. Adm. Blackert explained that two of the bucket trucks were in for repairs during the time that the flags were to be placed on the poles.

Administrator Blackert reminded everyone that the City Offices will be closed November 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.

Administrator Blackert informed that the tax levy will be on the agenda for the next council meeting. She will be preparing that as soon as she receives figures for Police and Fire pensions from the actuary.

### **Information/Correspondence:**

City Clerk Eric Arduini announced that a letter of thanks had been received by the city from Barbara Brunk thanking the city for their thoughts during the passing of her husband Lewis Brunk Jr. Mr. Brunk was the father-in-law of Alderman Brian Snow.

### **Department Heads:**

Police Chief Mike Kuelper informed the Council of the road closures associated with the Hometown Holidays, and the events on November 21st and November 22nd.

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla informed the Council that Well number 4 has been rehabbed, and worked on quite a bit over the years, and its production is now down to 60%. Mr. Padilla request that the council proceed with the bidding, and construction of Well No. 7. Alderman Kuhlemier remarked that is the price that the city has to pay for having iron bacteria in the water supply.

Administrator Blackert reminded the council that the city has been working on this for 3 years, and the city has already secured the financing for the project.

### **Ward Reports:**

#### **Ward 1:**

Alderman Logan gives his condolences to the family of John, and Maryann Hoffmiller on the loss of their son Matthew.

#### **Ward 2:**

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving, and encourages everyone to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones.

Alderman Snow thanks everyone for their support in the loss of his father-in-law.

#### **Ward 3:**

Alderman Hand wishes everyone a good Thanksgiving, and he reported that the first walls of the new hotel are up along the riverfront

Alderman Jim Schuneman reported that the eagles have landed. This refers to the winter bald eagle population along the river.

#### **Ward 4:**

Alderman Folsom wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving

Alderman Watts reminded everyone that the information for the Hometown Holiday events is all on the city's Facebook page.

#### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bill Wescott spoke about the residential inspection program, and mentioned that it has been through committees, and the Committee of the Whole over the last 18 months. Mayor Wescott asked that the Council make a motion as to whether they would like to move forward with the program, or abandon it, and not spend more time on it now in committees. He recognizes the hard work that has been put into this, and commends all involved in gathering the information to get this far. The concerns for the program are pricing, sustainability, and consistency in the evaluations.

Alderman Kuhlemier agrees that a straight up or down vote is necessary

Alderman Schuneman would like to see something worked out for life safety issues, but this is a good time to let it go.

Alderman Watts stated that a lot of good work has been done, and the City has received a lot of information during the process.

Alderman Snow stated that the City's finance and long term support of this program are not there right now. He thanks Inspector Searing for all of his hard work.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier to set aside and end consideration for the rental inspection program, and second by Alderman Folsom.

**Vote 7 Ayes, motion carried**

Mayor Wescott brought up another item that had been discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting, and that was the need of additional funding for road repairs. Mr. Wescott explained that the city currently receives \$405,000 - \$410,000, from the current ½ cent tax. Most of the City's motor fuel tax goes to pay for bonds that were taken out to rebuild West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He stated that if the ½ cent additional sales tax was put on the ballot for the April 2015 election, it would have to be approved by the Council, and sent to the County Clerk by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Alderman Schuneman inquired if we will still put it on the ballot if Sterling does not, and Mayor Wescott said that Rock Falls would go ahead with it.

Adm. Blackert stated that Sterling may use it for storm water or other projects. She also stated that it is the number one complaint at city hall.

Alderman Watts stressed that informational meetings are important to let everyone know just how much funding the city currently has to work with for street and sidewalk repairs.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that the last ½ cent referendum passed, and every instance of it has went to sidewalks and infrastructure.

Alderman Hand stated that as an Alderman the biggest concern expressed by the residents has been roads.

A motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2014-2185 Submission to Electors of the increase in non-home rule retailers' occupation tax and use tax was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Watts.

**Viva Voce Vote, 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 Logan at 7:07pm

**Viva Voce Vote motion carried**