

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

July 15th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. July 15th, 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney James Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

## **Proclamation:**

Mayor Wescott summarized a proclamation that had been given to Gary Murphy, and Joseph Duncan during an event at the Coloma Park District office. These two gentlemen broke a Guinness Record for most disc golf holes played in 24 hours at Nims Park in Rock Falls. A motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing these men was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Snow.

## **Community Affairs:**

Randy Balk, Executive director of the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation gave an update on the façade program. He stated that the committee consisting of Gayla Kolb, Jeff Guthrie, Bob Kloman, Tim Wilson, Mark Searing, and Alderman Lee Folsom, has approved 3 projects for this year so far. Mr. Balk described the types of improvements being done to the buildings, and stated that these improvements will total around \$66,000 in improvements to the uptown area. Each project will have 90 days to finish the work and have to be inspected prior to receiving the grant.

## **Viva Voce Vote. Motion Carried**

## **Ordinance Second Reading/ Adoption:**

1. Ordinance 2014-2167 Appropriation Ordinance FY 2014-2015  
A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Folsom to adopt the ordinance.  
**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**
2. Ordinance 2014-2168 Repealing Section 9-171 Restricted length vehicle parking- Compact cars. A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts to adopt the ordinance.  
**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**
3. Ordinance 2014-2169 Amending Section 9-149 (b) - Prohibited Areas – Adding prohibited parking areas in the uptown area.  
Mayor Wescott explained that this ordinance needed to be passed due to safety reasons. The visibility when pulling on to W 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was dangerous, and you have to pull into traffic to see if there is a vehicle coming. The city had attempted to allow for only compact cars at the corners, but it didn't work well and it was not complied with.

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow to adopt the ordinance.

**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**

4. Ordinance 2014-2170 Amending Section 9-154 (b) – Alleys - Restricting parking in alleys. Mayor Wescott explained that that there has been a problem with parking in the alleys near the post office. There had also been two ordinances conflicting on the issue of alley parking. This new ordinance will allow for limited alley parking as long as there is a 10ft. wide area still open. A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Watts to adopt the ordinance.

**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**

5. Ordinance 2014-2171 Adding Section 16-146 – Conversion of two family dwellings. A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman to adopt the ordinance.

**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**

6. Ordinance 2014-2172 Amending Section 8-289 - License classifications, fees -Amending the liquor license classifications, and fees. A motion was made by Alderman Watts, and second by Alderman Snow to adopt the ordinance.

**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**

7. Ordinance 2014-2173 Amending Section 8-291 – Number Limited – Setting the number of available Class A-1 and Class A-2 liquor licenses. Mayor Wescott confirmed with Attorney Reese that this now meets his recommendations. A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adopt the ordinance.

**Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried**

#### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the July 1st, 2014 Council Meeting.
2. Approve the bills as presented.
3. Adopt Resolution 2014-683 Accepting dedication of sanitary sewer main from James Persico.
4. Approval of a Bucket Brigade conducted by Rock Falls Fire Department to raise funds for MDA. The location I sat the corner of 1<sup>st</sup>. Avenue, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from 9am to 1pm on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Mayor Wescott explained that the city did not allow bucket brigades, but new state legislation now allows Fire Departments to conduct them for charities.

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

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

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

Administrator Blackert had drafted a letter to the Illinois EPA concerning repayment of revolving loans given to the city for cleanup of the RB&W site. The agreement was that the loans be repaid at 80% when development begins in the area. Adm. Blackert also feels that the City may qualify for another 10% reduction in payback due to the green space being built at the site. The City will be issuing a letter to the Illinois EPA explaining that they received a total of \$208,377.36 of RLF loan funds (loan principle). Based upon the terms of the Redevelopment Agreement, the financial condition of the TIF, and the creation of 13-acre community open space/ park, the City is respectfully requesting a 30% discount on the loan principle of \$208,377.36. A 30% discount is 10% more than agreed to in the IGA and would reduce the principle by \$62,513.21. The City would propose to repay the remaining \$145,864.15 loan principle balance as follows:

1. By December 31, 2014, \$36,466.03;
2. By December 31, 2015, \$36,466.03;
3. By December 31, 2016, \$72,932.09

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Folsom to send this letter to the Illinois EPA.

Alderman Kuhlemier suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to the IEPA as they have been a good partner with the city. He also explained that an NFR is an acronym for no further remediation, and it means that toxic chemicals from closed factories have been removed.

Mayor Wescott stated that he and Adm. Blackert had a chance to talk with Steve Colentino from the IEPA, and this is one the few sites that has been quickly developed after a cleanup. Our due diligence in the repayment of this loan will help with an open door policy with the IEPA.

## **Viva Voce Vote motion carried**

Administrator Blackert stated that she had given a press release to the media, door hangers will be distributed, and Channel 5 will also be displaying information about the road projects beginning soon. There will be no parking in the work areas, and residents are asked to park at least 10 feet away from the work area due to overspray of oil and tree sap.

## **Department Heads:**

Fire Chief Cook gave a report on the work being done in the fire station that began Monday. The construction team had stripped the walls, and all of the flooring is up. There is a lot of extra phone wires that will also be removed during the process.

Mayor Wescott noted that the Firefighters, are going to be helping with some of the work including cabinetry, and painting.

## **Ward Reports:**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

Alderman Daehle Reitzel thanks the Fire Department for their extra work.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Ward**

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier stated that many years ago Self Help was started by people from the Presbyterian Church across from Dillon School. It was originally at Rock Falls Dairy on

East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. At 10:00 on July 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a dedication on the front lawn at the current location in Sterling celebrating 50 years.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

Alderman David Hand thanks the Fire Department for the work they are doing.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Ward

Alderman John Watts was very impressed with the Pink Heals Tour event put on by the Rock Falls Tourism, and other volunteers. He said that it was a truly amazing event and seeing so many people on the riverfront for the displays, and fireworks made him a proud resident.

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

Mayor William Wescott requested that the council appoint an RB&W Greenspace Review Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the proposed site development plans, and projected costs and make any recommendations for changes or alterations to the plan designs. The final recommendations will then be forwarded to the City Council for their review and approval. He would like the committee to include the following individuals:

Mayor Bill Wescott,

City Administrator Robbin Blackert

Executive Director RFCDC, Randy Balk

Building Inspector, Mark Searing

Director, Coloma Park District Mike Sterba

Alderman Brian Snow

Alderman Jim Schuneman

Ms. Ann Latchford

Mr. Noel Gillette

Mr. Terry Hicks

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second Alderman Reitzel to approve the formation of the committee, and its members.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

Adm. Blackert added that the engineers from Willett Hofmann & Associates will be at the meetings, and they are preparing a 3D walkthrough of the RB&W District.

Mayor Wescott stated that as of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Alderman Vandersnick's seat that he had ran for a four year term became vacant. The mayor now has 60 days to make a recommendation to the City Council. The new alderman will hold the seat until the next election, at which time he or she will run for a two year term, followed by a four year term. The mayor has put together a questionnaire, and if anyone is interested in the position they should contact the Mayor. Mayor Wescott will review the questionnaires and interview candidates if necessary. There are currently 7 people who have expressed an interest in the position.

Mayor Wescott was really impressed by all of the hard work put on by everyone to make the Pink Heals event a successes. With a very short notice, the communities of Morison, Dixon, Sterling, and Rock Falls all came together with lots of support from the communities. The Pink Heals group pulled up to area cancer survivor's houses with the sirens going. They gave flowers, and let the recipients sign the pink trucks. The mayor estimated about 1500 people then gathered at the riverfront patio to meet with area care givers and business who had set up displays. At 9:00pm there was a fireworks display over the river. He thanked Tim Wilson

form Rock Falls Tourism for all of the help, and they will be sending thank you letters out soon. The Pink Heals Group really enjoyed the hospitality that they received from Rock Falls, and they had never been treated so well. The next day they were off to LaSalle Peru.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 7:05pm

**Viva Voce Vote motion carried**

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Eric Arduini, City Clerk