

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

August 19th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. August 19th, 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 Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Audience Request:

Terry Warren of 201 7th Avenue, Rock Falls, IL approached the council in efforts to save the "7th Ave. Shocker" He stated that he had started this project in March. He explained that it is to be a free event for children to enjoy, and raise awareness for Huntington's disease, a little known disease with no cure, which affects his wife's family. Mr. Warren stated that during an inspection of the site by Building Inspector Searing, and Fire Chief Cook he was notified that he was in violation of municipal ordinances, and asked to stop building.

Mayor Wescott explained that other than the Zoning and Building Code violations that a structure made of pallets incurs, it would also need to meet state fire codes, and be inspected by the Department of Labor's amusement division. Mayor Wescott further explained that the council could not change codes for a project even as worthwhile as this one, without then being lax and having a hard time enforcing the ordinances in the future.

Alderman Kuhlemier asked the group to re-think and not give up on the project

Alderman Schuneman noted that after a new plan is made, that Mr. Warren come back for a resolution of support from the Council.

Alderman Watts thanked Mr. Warren for his efforts.

Mayor Wescott had the City Clerk accept the petitions signed by many people in support of the project.

Rod Kleckler of 219 Avenue C, Rock Falls, IL handed out a calculation sheet from the Sauk Valley Landlord's Association. It contained the group's projections of the income and costs to the city of the proposed rental inspection program. Mr. Kleckler stated that if the city wants the program to work they should increase the costs by ten times. He also stated that he would not like the city to sell this program to the public at a low cost, and then raise it after the first year.

Community Affairs:

Julie Jacobs Chairperson of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce reminded the Council that the Hometown Holidays will be celebrated November 20th - 23rd. Mrs. Jacobs also informed the Council of two ribbon cuttings. One at the ribbon cutting is at The Whiskey Barrel, and the other at the Chamber Building for Stewart Heating. Mrs. Jacobs stated that they have a new employee, and her name is Adina Hodges.

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that Tim Wilson from Tourism has been working on projects along the Hennepin Canal, and the next Voluntourism Event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. The volunteers will be painting, and repairing the towpath. Everyone is welcome to attend beginning at 9:00am at the Arduini Boat Launch.

Ordinance Second Reading/ Adoption:

1. Ordinance 2014-2175 Surplus Property (Fire Department)

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

Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 5th, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Resolution 2014-685 - 2014 Bridge the Community Run
4. Recommendation from the Electric Committee - Main Distribution Frame / Network Room Installation - Bid awarded to Kelso- Burnett Co. 5617 Sockness Dr. Rockford, IL - \$54,570
5. Recommendation from the Electric Committee - 40.6ft. Articulating telescopic aerial device 2015 Chassis, and 5 year warranty- Bid awarded to ALTEC Industries Inc. 2106 South Riverside Road St. Joseph, MO. 64507-9799 \$114,822

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

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Administrator: Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert informed the Council that the city has received a response from the IEPA concerning repayment of the revolving loan. Adm. Blackert stated that this repayment will be at a 30% discount totaling \$145,864.15. The city has received over 6 million dollars in cleanup work and now has a repayment of only \$145,864.15.

Mayor Wescott stated that the city is very fortunate that the due diligence was done by past administrations to get to this point, and he is appreciative for their hard work. A motion to allow for the payments to the IEPA as spelled out in the agreement was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert spoke of a young man who approached the council about a utility rebate for people that are rehabilitating residential properties around the city. Because of that request the city began the residential rehabilitation utility reimbursement program. Adm. Blackert states that she has been approached by business wondering if there is any such program for commercial buildings. Adm. Blackert with the help of some Aldermen have come up with a similar rehabilitation grant for commercial property rehabilitation. This grant would differ because the rebate is not tied only to the amount of the building permit, but also jobs retained for one year after the project is complete. Adm. Blackert gave an example of a \$35,000 rehabilitation employing 5 people for a year would yield a utility reimbursement of \$2,000.00. A

motion to begin the Commercial Rehabilitation Grant Program was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Hand.

Alderman Kuhlemier commented that this will not bankrupt the city, and gives encouragement to those investing in Rock Falls.

Mayor Wescott stated that this will be one more tool in the toolbox for incentives to businesses moving to Rock Falls.

Alderman Hand stated that new businesses have a lot of costs, and this can help

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Clerk: Eric Arduini

City Clerk Eric Arduini stated that the 2015 General Election is coming up, and the 1st day to pick up petitions will be September 23rd, 2014

Department Heads:

Fire Chief Cook presented a letter to the Council from Western Illinois University. He stated that after checking with the insurance of the city and ensuring that no interns would be put in harm's way, the Fire department had an intern working alongside the firefighters for 40 hours a week. The student was Kurt Landis, and he was required to write a weekly report and submit it to the Fire Chief, who would then turn it in to Mr. Landis' professor. Mr. Cook then read parts of the letter from Kenneth Wayne Durkin thanking the City for instituting the internship program.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that internships are a good way to provide quality candidates to fill positions at the city.

Ward Reports:

1st Ward

Alderman Daehle Reitzel reminded everyone that school is back in session, and to watch for kids.

2nd Ward

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier commended all of the volunteers that have worked to plant and maintain the beautiful flowers around the city.

3rd Ward

Alderman David Hand thanks the volunteers, and dedicated people in town.

Alderman Jim Schuneman remarked that the Rock Falls Voluntourism has an ambitious list of projects to be worked on this weekend along the canal. He also thanked the IDNR for helping make the canal look spectacular by mowing. He knows that the IDNR is understaffed, and would like to thanks the IDNR crew for their hard work.

4th Ward

Alderman John Watts mentioned that he was recently in a ride-along with the Police on a Saturday night. He was impressed with the seamless job that they do, and he can really appreciate the job that they do. Mr. Watts also reminded the Council that he held neighborhood meetings at his garage last year to speak to residents. He will be scheduling another one soon, and urges residents to look on the City's Facebook page for details.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor William Wescott mentioned that one thing that was not mentioned about the Voluntourism events this weekend is that there is also free lunch provided to the volunteers. Mayor Wescott announced that a new Alderman will be named at the next City Council meeting, and there will be appointments filling vacancies on various committees.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for threatened or pending litigation – Section 2(c)(11) was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts at 7:16pm.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Any action taken from Executive Session

At 8:11pm the council returned to regular session.

A motion was made to Adopt Ordinance 2014-2176 terminating the Hotel Tax Agreement, and Lease Agreement with the Rock Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, NFP by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Reitzel

Alderman Kuhlemier hopes that there will be latitude for an agreement, and a meeting will take place as to not destroy a good institution.

Vote 4 Ayes Reitzel, Snow, Schuneman, Watts - **3 Nays** Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom

Motion carried

Mayor Wescott also voted Aye as per Illinois Revised Statutes 5/3.1-40-30 Section 3.1-40-30

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 8:13pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk