

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

August 5th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. August 5th, 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 Attorney Tom Sanders, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Proclamation:

Mayor Wescott summarized a proclamation for the National Night Out being held at the same time as the council meeting. A motion to accept the proclamation that Tuesday August 5th, 2014 be proclaimed as "National Night Out" in Rock Falls was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts.

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Audience Request:

Sandy Ivey from Team Underwires announced to the council that the 7th annual Motorcycle ride will be held on August 16th, 2014. The ride will go 95 miles and end at the Days Inn in Rock Falls where patrons will have chicken from Candlelight Inn, along with live entertainment, and auctions. The event Begins with registration at 10:00am, and will last until 10:00pm. Police Chief Kuelper affirmed that he has reviewed the details of the event and they are all set. A motion of support for this event was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow.

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Community Affairs:

Bethany Bland CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce thanked everyone for their help with Summer Splash. She has received good feedback, and reported that over 80 organizations were part of the event. Mrs. Bland reported that the Chamber will be working on educational videos for members of the Chamber, and setting up quarterly meetings with the first one being October 16th, 2014. Mrs. Bland is organizing 100 volunteers for the Bridge the Community Race on September 13th, 2014. The fall city wide rummage sales will be on September 19th - 21st. Mayor Wescott inquired about Hometown Holidays, and Mrs. Bland explained that the parade will begin in Sterling this year, and then end at Merrill School on November 22nd, 2014.

Ordinance Second Reading/ Adoption:

1. Ordinance 2014-2174 Surplus Property (Police Department)

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman to adopt the ordinance. Chief Kuelper explained that the markings will be removed, and there will be a minimum bid price.

Vote: 7 Aye Motion carried

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the July 15th, 2014 Council Meeting.
2. Approve the bills as presented.
3. Resolution 2014-684 – 2014 Fiesta Days Parade

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 explained the revisions to the purchasing policy being recommended by the Electric Committee, and the Finance Committee. This will raise the limit amount of the purchases of supplies, and equipment to be in the Electric Department without Council approval from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that this is necessary to save money and time. He also stated that the Electric department services areas outside of the city limits. A motion to approve the changes was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that the 2014 road projects were completed today.

Administrator Blackert stated that the website for the city has been having many problems recently due to a Windows XP to Windows 7 conversion. The program used to add items to the website is 11 years old. Clerk Arduini, and Adm. Blackert will be meeting with a local web designer to develop a new website for the city.

Administer Blackert Informed the Council that there has been no response yet from the IEPA for the proposed repayment plan submitted for the loan at the Reliant site.

The IDNR met with the city to look over the site for the OSLAD Grant. The city needs to do a little more work, and will know in September or October if it made the cut.

Administrator Blackert spoke about the rehab grant used to fix up newly purchased houses, and stated that there are people that would like to see a similar grant formed for commercial property.

City Clerk: Eric Arduini

City Clerk Eric Arduini stated that the posted Building Code meeting for August 6th 2014 has been cancelled.

Department Heads:

Electrical director Dick Simon announced that the next Electric meeting will be changed to August 19th, 2014. At the meeting a representative from Magellan will be giving a presentation about the city fiber.

Mr. Simon also asked the council for the approval of relay, and equipment work to be done by PSE in the amount of \$15,000. A motion to approve the expense was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Reitzel.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Director Simon informed the Council that after the storms from Monday night, there were 20 houses without power. Three houses had the power lines ripped off of the house.

Police Chief Kuelper told the Council about a YMCA P.A.C.T. Camp that was being held for middle school students at Centennial Park. The officers helping with the camp are not on overtime, and the YMCA is paying for the expenses. It is a good chance to have the children work together with police. He hopes to have this program continue in the future. Chief Kuelper would like to thank all of the officers, and telecommunicators that assisted residents through the recent storm.

Fire Chief Cook announced that the Fire Department will be able to purchase new portable radios thanks to an \$18,000 grant from the Monsanto Foundation. The 6X6 ATV was previously awarded to the Fire Department from this same donor. He stated that due to the prices coming in so good for the radios, they will be able to upgrade some other radio equipment with the grant money.

Chief Cook informed the council that the Fire Museum that was located west of the Fire Department was recently moved to the Fire House of God Fire Museum on West 2nd Street.

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla announced that the 7th Avenue water main project is still on schedule for August 18th, 2014.

Ward Reports:

1st Ward

Alderman Daehle Reitzel thanks the employees for their hard work during the storm. He also reminds residents that they can bundle sticks and limbs for pickup.

2nd Ward

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier stated that Davenport is now looking into offering broadband, and he is happy that Rock Falls has already had this service for businesses.

Alderman Brian Snow thanked the city employees for their work during the storm. He also thanked the Optimist Club, and Alderman John Watts for their work on the Touch -A- Truck, and putting together such a successful event.

3rd Ward

Alderman David Hand thanks the departments for the work during the storm. He also thanks Administrator Robbin Blackert for her work on economic development.

4th Ward

Alderman Folsom thanked the employees for all of their help.

Alderman John Watts thanked all of the departments, and personnel that came out for the Touch-A-Truck event. He stated that there was 50 attractions, and over 1000 people in attendance. Alderman Watts spoke about the city's new façade program, and pointed out the work being done on 1st Avenue across from Shell gas station showing the façade program in action.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor William Wescott stated that he was pleasantly surprised by the amount of interest in the vacant Aldermanic seat in the 1st Ward. There were eight people interested, and after having the candidates fill out questionnaires, he has got the number of candidates down to four. He will be interviewing these four and hopes to have a recommendation to the Council by September's first Council meeting.

Mayor Wescott announced that there will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on August 25th, to discuss the rental inspection program.

The Mayor thanked all of the employees that worked through the storm, and the Electric department that worked to run new drop lines to homes because of downed power lines.

Mayor Wescott stated that the Fiesta Parade, and the Bridge the community race will be held on September 13th, 2014. This year the Fiesta Parade will come over the 1st Avenue Bridge to Rock Falls, and turn West on to W. 2nd Street and finish at the High School. He explained that the bridge at 12th Avenue will be under repair, but IDOT has assured the city that all lanes will be open when it is used as a detour for the parade.

Mayor Wescott encourages the council to visit the Fire Department and look at the work that has been done.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 7:12pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk