

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

September 2nd, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. September 2nd, 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:

Rod Kleckler of 219 Avenue C, Rock Falls, IL addressed the Council concerning the pending Rental Inspection Program. He stated that after running the numbers found on the city's webpage he discovered that 6% of the landlords are absentee, or out of town landlords. He feels that the majority of the rental problems come from them, and the city should require absentee landlords to have a local agent, and leave the other 94% alone to conduct their business.

Aldermanic Nomination:

Mayor Wescott stated that he had received 8 applications for the 1st Ward Alderman seat left by Mark Vandersnick. He narrowed those applicant to 4 people that he interviewed for the position. He makes the recommendation of George Logan Jr. to be approved by the City Council to fill the 1st Ward Aldermanic Seat until the April election in which he will run for a two year term. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve Mr. Logan's appointment to 1st Ward Alderman,

Vote 7 ayes motion carried

Mr. Logan was sworn into office by City Clerk Eric Arduini
Alderman Logan took his seat with the City Council at 6:35pm.

Community Affairs:

Bethany Bland President / CEO, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce informed the Council about some upcoming events. A quarterly meeting will be held October 15th from noon to 1pm. A new event called Candidates at Culver's will be held on October 21st at 5:00-7:30pm. It will be taking the place of the guest bartender night, and candidates will be serving Culver's guests, and helping raise money for Hometown Holidays Activities. City - Wide Garage Sales will held in Sterling and Rock Falls on September 19th - 21st. September 5th is the last day of \$10.00 registration.

Tim Wilson, Executive Director of Rock Falls Tourism reminded the Council that there will be a Voluntourism event held this weekend involving the cleaning up of the "Love Light Tree" area. Mr. Wilson also reminded the Council that the "Canal Crawl" 5K will be held Saturday beginning at 8:00am.

Dave Blanton spoke on behalf of the Rock Falls Tourism. He presented a Power Point illustrating the origins of the Tourism Office, the income for Tourism, and how much the office has spent on various items since its inception. He welcomed questions from the Aldermen. Mayor Wescott asked that this item be added to the agenda for the next City Council meeting. Alderman Watts asked Mr. Blanton why when the Tourism board was in front of the City Council to discuss the Tourism agreement, none of the board members spoke, but only an attorney from Quincy, IL, and not any local people. Mr. Blanton stated that at that time the board felt it needed legal representation as the city has.

Ordinance Second Reading/ Adoption:

1. Adopt Ordinance 2014-2177 Correction of a typographical error in Sec. 8-289 (a)(2) "Class B License" A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adopt the corrected ordinance.

Mayor Wescott explained that the previously passed ordinance omitted the word "club" which was on the original ordinance.

Vote: 8 Aye Motion carried

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 19th, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented

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

Vote 8aye, motion carried

Recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts to approve Resolution 2014-686 -Approving the Preliminary Plat for real estate north of East 2nd Street east of 1st Avenue formerly the Reliant Fastener site. Aldermen Reitzel, and Logan recused themselves from the vote.

Vote 6 aye motion carried

City Administrator: Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert mentioned that the Illinois Video Gaming Report is included in the packet. She noted that the city received \$20,000 in the first quarter. Administrator Blackert also mentioned a request for the 2nd annual Mary Avenue block party to be held on Saturday September 13th, 2014 beginning at 1:00pm. Police Chief Kuelper stated that the barricades needed would be available even with the other events happening in town that day. A motion to allow the block party, and street closures was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Snow.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Department Heads:

Police Chief Mike Kuelper informed the Council that the Ordinance Committee recommended no parking on the north sides of West 5th, and West 6th Streets near Hinder's field during school events due to unsafe traffic conditions. The high school has added more parking

along the stadium, and there is a large parking lot on the south side of the field to be used. This will be an action item for the next council meeting.

Mayor Wescott stated that just as is allowed on Leroy Ave. residents that live along these routes may apply for a permit to park.

Ward Reports:

1st Ward

Alderman Daehle Reitzel welcomes George Logan Jr. to the City Council

2nd Ward

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier commended the city crews for their hard work cleaning up the storm damage. He also thanks the City of Princeton, IL. for sending two crews to help our Electric Department restore power to everyone in the city.

Alderman Brian Snow echoes Mr. Kuhlemier's remarks, and stated that much of the city lost power, but the crews restored services quickly. He also thanked the Firehouse Ministries for their event that was hosted at the fire museum.

3rd Ward

Alderman David Hand welcomes Alderman Logan, and he asked for a standing ovation for the hard work the city crews working through the night.

Alderman Jim Schuneman welcomed Alderman Logan, and wishes his wife a Happy 43rd wedding anniversary.

4th Ward

Alderman Lee Folsom thanks Alderman Watts for hosting the neighborhood meeting at his house.

Alderman John Watts echoed all of the sentiments of the other aldermen, and reported that at the neighborhood meeting held at his house they discussed Economic Development, TIF, Zoning, and ordinances. He stated that the meeting lasted an hour and a half.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor William Wescott inquired to the council if they would like to reschedule the Committee of the Whole meeting, or just move the rental inspection discussion to the next scheduled C.O.W. meeting. The rental inspection program will be discussed at the next regular C.O.W. meeting on September 22nd, 2014 at 6:00pm.

Mayor Wescott stated that former Alderman Mark Vandersnick had served on the Planning and Zoning Board, and he would like to appoint Mr. Vandersnick to fill an open position on the Board as a resident since he does still live within the 1.5 mile area around the city. A motion to accept the appointment of Mark Vandersnick to the Planning and Zoning Board was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Schuneman.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott spoke about the storm damage that occurred. He stated that 6 of the 12 feeder lines were taken down, and this was much more than a typical two hour outage. Our crews worked for 26 hours straight, and the two crews from Princeton arrived to give our workers a rest. Residents who called in were put on a list, but it was not in that order that these issues were resolved. The major lines were fixed first, and then the individual drops were attended to after the main system was up and running.

Administrator Blackert stated that Electrical Director Dick Simon showed his dedication working 36 ½ hours straight through the event.

Mayor Wescott announced that September 13th will be a busy day in the City. At 8:00am the Bridge the Community 5K / 10K begins. At 12:00 noon the Fiesta Day Parade will begin in Sterling, and come across the bridge and take a right on 2nd Street and head to the High School. The St Mary's carnival will open at 11:00 also on the same day at the Riverfront Patio.

With regret Mayor Wescott read a letter from Police Commander Tammy Nelson announcing her retirement, and with her last day in two weeks.

Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for threatened or pending litigation – Section 2(c)(11), and setting the price for sale or lease of real estate – Section 2(c)(6) was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Hand at 7:18pm.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Any action taken from Executive Session

The Council returned to regular session at 8:10 pm with no action to be taken

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 8:11pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk