

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

March 4th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. March 4th, 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 Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Mayor Wescott requested that the Council give a moment of silence for the passing of Tony L. Arduini, the former Chairman of the Board for Whiteside County, and Matthew M. Anderson, a 15 year old Rock Falls High School student who both recently passed away.

Community Appreciation:

Mayor Wescott presented 33 Certificates of appreciation to many of the individuals, groups, and companies that came together to help the City in numerous ways during the Sewer Pump Station incident. He stated that these certificates are being presented because words alone cannot express our gratitude. It was noted when asked that Engel Electric also had helped considerably during this incident.

Audience Requests:

Rod Kleckler of 219 Avenue C approached the Council with some concerns he had found in reading the draft Ordinance for Rental Inspections. He cited that the language in some parts of the ordinance is confusing. He also states that there are parts that are vague and it contains non-descript words, which would leave a lot to interpretation. Mr. Kleckler also stated that the ordinance has unrealistic fees, and that they were too low compared to other cities. He feels the program should be put on the shelf for 6 months and discussed in committees.

Community Affairs:

Administrator Blackert reported that the Chamber will be hosting a "Thank you breakfast" for the city employees from 7:30am to 8:30am on March 7th, 2014. Adm. Blackert reported that the Chamber's Annual Dinner was a success, and that the Chamber will be hosting an event for non-profit organizations on March 20th from 10am to noon.

Ordinance First Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Schuneman to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2014-2149 amending Municipal Code Article VIII Section 9 low speed and non-highway vehicles on roadway, and Ordinance 2014-2150 amending the Zoning Map to add MU-1 (Mixed Use Development) designations to areas of the downtown.

Alderman Snow inquired about how motorized bikes are affected by this ordinance change, and Police Chief Kuelper explained that those vehicles are covered by state statute and this ordinance does not affect them.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Ordinance Second Reading / Adoption:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Snow to adopt Ordinance 2014-2148 Amending Municipal Code Section 16-50 to add MU-1 as a designated district.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by alderman Hand, and second by Reitzel to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation. Included in the consent agenda is the approval of the minutes of the February 18th, 2014 City Council Meeting, approve the bills as presented, and authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution 2014-674 accepting a grant from the Illinois Housing Authority's Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program HO-50840. The Mayor noted that this grant is for \$250,000, and is for one year rather than two. He also stated that through this grant a total of \$1.6 million in grant money has been used for rehabilitating houses in Rock Falls.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Information /Correspondence

Clerk Eric Arduini stated that the Rock Falls Fire Department had received a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Illinois – 98th General Assembly House of Representatives presented by Representative Mike Smiddy for assisting the residents of Civic Plaza II during their evacuation.

Department Head Reports

Electric Director Dick Simon asked that the Council authorize Mayor Wescott, and the City Clerk to sign Resolution 2014-675 to give notice to Elements Markets LLC that all agreements for resale of Renewable Energy Credits are to be terminated on 30 day notice. He explained that this is necessary to begin selling credits to a new company. A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Snow.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Building Inspector Searing reported that the Industrial Development Committee recommends to the Council that we have the City Attorney draft an ordinance for haying , and that the advertisements be published to put the haying of city property out for bid. Alderman Kuhlemier made a motion to have the City attorney draft these documents, and second by Vandersnick. Alderman Kuhlemier amended his motion to signify that this bid be made for two years, and a clause be added that the city may terminate the contract if needed.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Ward Reports

Alderman Daehle Reitzel reminded the council that the Public Works / Public Property meeting is this Thursday March 6th, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier stated that at the RRDA meeting there was a report of ducks and geese returning to the area.

Alderman Brian Snow congratulated his nephew Jake Snow for his winning the State Wrestling Championship. He stated that he is proud, and he does not know if Jake will wrestle or play football in college.

Alderman Schuneman wanted to recognize the athletes in Prophetstown, as well as Coach Robinson. He also wanted to thank the people of Rock Falls for hanging on through this winter.

Alderman Hand stated that we have a lot of volunteers, and a lot of people who really care a lot about the city of Rock Falls.

Alderman John Watts reported that he attended a Knights of Columbus breakfast at St. Andrews. He stated that it was a great turnout, and he thanked them for a wonderful event.

Mayor's Report:

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Vandersnick to appoint Alderman Kuhlemier "Mayor Pro Tem" for the time that Mayor Wescott will be in Washington D.C. for a conference. This will be March 9th - 13th, 2014.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott thanked Jim and Sally Behrens for throwing an employee appreciation thank you breakfast for the city workers. The Mayor thanks them for their hospitality.

Mayor Wescott then delivered his 2014 State of the City Address. A copy of the speech is filed with the minutes of this meeting and shall remain for records documentation.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Snow to enter into executive session for Personnel - Section 2(c)(1), Collective Bargaining 2(c)(3), Purchase or Lease of Real Estate - Section 2(c)(5), and Pending Litigation - Section 2(c)(11)

Vote 7 aye motion carried, Alderman Reitzel was absent for this vote.

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the council a motion to adjourn was made at 8:20p.m. by Alderman Folsom, and second by Reitzel.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk