

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

March 18th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. March 18th, 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 Vandernick, Reitzel, Schuneman, Folsom, and Watts. Aldermen Snow, Kuhlemier, and Hand were absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Mayor Wescott informed the council that Alderman Snow, and Kuhlemier were not able to make it to the meeting due to family matters. He asked that the first reading of the ordinances be done separately, and that consent agenda item #5 be removed, and voted on separately. He also informed the council that there will be an executive session following the meeting for collective bargaining discussion Section 2(c)(2).

Audience Requests:

Rod Kleckler of 219 Avenue C approached the Council to talk about the proposed rental inspection ordinance. He stated that it may create problems. Mr. Kleckler illustrated a scenario of a landlord who had tenants that needed to be evicted, and the landlord was forced to incur extra expenses such as a roof, and a water service line. He illustrated that the property could be foreclosed, and abandoned.

Ordinance First Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Schuneman to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2014-2151 amending the Municipal Code to add Section 1-169 Construction Permit parking areas in the downtown. Alderman Reitzel recused himself from this vote.

Vote 4 aye, and Mayor Wescott casting an aye quorum vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick and second by Reitzel to approve the first reading of ordinance 2014-2152 amending the date of the use of groundwater as potable water to October 1st, 2014. Alderman Schuneman wanted to be assured that this date is feasible, and Water Superintendent Ted Padilla assured him that the city will have all of the stop boxes installed by that date. Mr. Padilla stated that there are about 150 hookups yet to be done, and 50-75 more stop boxes to be installed.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

Ordinance Second Reading / Adoption:

A motion was made by Alderman Shuneman, and second by Watts to adopt ordinance 2014-2149 amending Municipal Code Article VIII Section 9 Low Speed, and non-highway vehicles on roadway. Mayor Wescott explained that the state has changed their rules, and this amendment is to update our ordinance.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Vandersnick to adopt ordinance 2014-2150 amending the zoning map to add MU-1 (Mixed use Development) designations to areas of the downtown. Alderman Reitzel recused himself from this vote.

Vote 4 aye, and Mayor Wescott casting an aye quorum vote, motion carried

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by alderman Watts, 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 March 4th, 2014 City Council Meeting, approve the bills as presented, Resolution 2014-676 authorizing the Mayor to sign the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement with the Illinois Law Enforcement Aid System (ILEAS), and approval of the 5 year lease agreement No. 3096 with the IDNR for a parcel of land at the Hennepin Canal utilized by the Electric Department for the operation, and maintenance of aerial electric lines. Lease amount is \$200.00/Year for a total of \$1000.00. Lease effective date July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019. Item number 5 is to be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Shuneman, and second by Vandersnick to direct the City Administrator to seek proposals from engineers and to contract for a preliminary subdivision plat to subdivide areas north of East 2nd Street in the RB&W District. Alderman Reitzel recused himself from this vote.

Vote 4 aye, and Mayor Wescott casting an aye quorum vote, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

Administrator Blackert informed the council that the Finance Committee will be holding open meetings on March 25th, and 26th, 2014 at 5:30pm to discuss the budgets of each department in the city. The General Fund will be on March 25th, and the Enterprise Funds will be on March 26th.

Administrator Blackert stated that the Rock Falls Library is remodeling their bathrooms, and they have requested a waiver for the building permit fees. Alderman Vandersnick asked if this is something special, or do we do this for nonprofits. Adm. Blackert stated that she could not find other instances where we have waived fees, and we did charge the Health Department for their building projects. Attorney Reese stated that the Library is not a nonprofit, it is a government entity, and he suggests that we amend our ordinance so that there would be a blanket waiver of governmental permit fees if the council wants to do this. A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Reitzel to approve the waiver of building permit fees for the Rock Falls Public Library.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert requested a motion, and it was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Vandersnick authorizing the publication of RFPs for redevelopment of a part of the north side of East 2nd Street in the RB&W District consisting of up to 2 acres lying east of the access drive. Alderman Reitzel recused himself from this vote.

Vote 4 aye, and Mayor Wescott casting an aye quorum vote, motion carried

Information /Correspondence

Clerk Eric Arduini asked for the approval of Resolution 2014-677 concerning the review of closed session minutes. He explained that these minutes were reviewed by the Council. A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Folsom to approve Resolution 2014-677.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

Mr. Arduini read a letter from Brooke Hendrickx, Local Council Coordinator, 14th Judicial Circuit Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council thanking Police Chief Kuelper for speaking before them.

Committee Items:

Alderman Reitzel made a motion, second by Schuneman to direct the city attorney to negotiate, and prepare the necessary documents and agreements with the owner of 511 First Avenue for the use, and, marking of the north-south alley adjacent to the address. Atty. Reese explained that this is for the drive through of the business, and the council had previously agreed to the vacation of the alley, and that is now not necessary with these agreements.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

Mayor's Report:

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Schuneman to sign the Proclamation of Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service being April 1st, 2014. The mayor will present the proclamation at Dillon School.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott gave the council a brief overview of the trip he had taken to Washington D.C. for the APPA Legislative Rally. On Monday he attended an 8 hour governance workshop at which he was able to interact with other leaders from all over the country. On Tuesday he attended various workshops concerning: greenhouse gasses, protecting tax-exempt financing for municipalities, cyber, and physical security. On Wednesday he met with Illinois Representatives Cheri Bustos shortly, and he had a half an hour with Senator Dick Durbin. Mayor Wescott stated that it was a busy three days, but it was very productive. He stated that he will be working toward better monthly reporting from our municipal utilities.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Watts to enter into executive session for Collective Bargaining 2(c)(2)

Vote 5 aye motion carried

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the council a motion to adjourn was made at 7:29p.m. by Alderman Folsom, and second by Reitzel.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk