

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

July 1st, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. July 1st, 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 James Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

There were no comments from the audience nor was there anyone from the public in attendance to speak on the proposed Appropriation Ordinance 2014-2167.

**Ordinance First Reading:**

1. A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Alderman Snow to accept the first reading of the following ordinances:

1. Ordinance 2014-2167 Appropriation Ordinance FY 2014-2015
2. Ordinance 2014-2168 Repealing Section 9-171 Restricted length vehicle parking- Compact cars.
3. Ordinance 2014-2169 Amending Section 9-149 (b) - Prohibited Areas - Adding prohibited parking areas in the uptown area.
4. Ordinance 2014-2170 Amending Section 9-154 (b) - Alleys - Restricting parking in alleys.
5. Ordinance 2014-2171 Adding Section 16-146 - Conversion of two family dwellings.
6. Ordinance 2014-2172 Amending Section 8-289 - License classifications, fees -Amending the liquor license classifications, and fees.
7. Ordinance 2014-2173 Amending Section 8-291 - Number Limited - Setting the number of available Class A-1 and Class A-2 liquor licenses.

Alderman Schuneman asked for clarification of the changes in 2014-2172. Mayor Wescott explained that the fee structure had some businesses paying \$2100 per year for a license, and others paying \$1000 when the only difference was Sunday sales. The other classes of liquor licenses did not have to pay anything extra for Sunday sales. Class E is now being added to accommodate for beer and wine only restaurants. Mayor Wescott also explained that 2014-2173 will increase the total amount of class A and A-1 licenses from 10 to 20. There are currently 9 of the 10 licenses being used, and 2 or 3 more licenses have been applied for.

**Vote 8 Aye, motion carried**

## **Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the June 17th, 2014 Council Meeting.
2. Approve the bills as presented.
3. Booster Two repair and installation - \$11,177.88 - Layne Christensen 721 W. Illinois Avenue Aurora, IL 60506

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

**Vote 8 aye, motion carried**

## **City Administrator: Robbin D. Blackert:**

Administrator Blackert commented that a couple of weeks ago, she had asked for help from the Aldermen because there was so much going on in city hall. She wanted to thank Alderman Kuhlemier for helping her work on developing covenants for the East Side Industrial Park. She thanked Alderman Schuneman for his help developing an annexation policy. Adm. Blackert wishes Mayor Wescott a Happy Birthday tomorrow.

## **Ward Reports:**

Alderman Mark Vandersnick addressed the Council and stated that it was with great regret that he will be tendering his resignation from the City Council tentatively effective July 11, 2014. He stated that he is moving out of the city limits. It has been his honor and privilege to serve the City and the People of Rock Falls for ten years.

Mayor Wescott noted that it will be a difficult decision trying to replace Mr. Vandersnick as a Committee Head and he hopes that Mr. Vandersnick will return to serve his community in other ways.

A motion was made to accept his resignation with regret by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Hand.

**Vote 8 Aye, motion carried**

Alderman Daehle Reitzel reminds everyone that the Public Works / Public Property meeting is this Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30pm, and he wishes everyone a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Alderman Brian Snow congratulated Alderman Vandersnick on his new home. He wishes Mayor Wescott a Happy Birthday, and everyone a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier congratulated the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism departments for their efforts in hosting such great events along the riverfront. The weather was perfect for the events. He thanked the city crews for their quick work at cleaning up fallen trees from the recent storms.

Alderman Jim Schuneman told Alderman Vandersnick that ten years goes by fast. He also congratulated everyone involved with the Summer Splash, and River Chase events.

Alderman David Hand hopes for a party at Alderman Vandersnick's house, and wishes the Mayor a Happy Birthday.

Alderman Lee Folsom says that he is going to miss Alderman Vandersnick, and wishes the Mayor a Happy Birthday.

Alderman John Watts thanks the media for their coverage of the Summer Splash and River Chase. He also mentioned that on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 the Rock Falls Optimist Club will be hosting a Touch-a-Truck event at the RB&W Patio. There will be many trucks involved including "Pink Heels", and a vehicle from the "American Pickers".

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Wescott reported that he was impressed with the large crowds along the riverfront over the past weekend. Mayor Wescott mentioned that Terry Hicks who is a resident of Rock Falls wondered what ever happened to the boat races, and took it upon himself to make the contacts to reach out to the racers. Terry got some sponsors and made it happen. There were more boats and spectators than anticipated. The Mayor would like to insure that the event returns again next year.

Mayor Wescott reported on the APPA meeting that Adm. Blackert, Dick Simon, and he had attended. The conference focused on physical, and cyber security. There was also a lot of discussion about energy production, and the future of coal fired electric plants. He stated that the coal plants that the city is invested in with the IMEA are the models for clean coal production of energy. Other plants that will not meet the new legislated emission standards will close because the upgrade cost will be too high. The energy will have to come from somewhere when these plants go off line. Natural gas is a possibility, but they had to shut down these types of plants for a time last winter. They also had discussions about how to set electrical rates, and the principles that they learned can be applied to sewer, and water rates.

Mayor Wescott announced that the city of Rock Falls had been selected for a visit from the "Pink Heels" organization, which helps local charities raise money for cancer victims. The city reached out to Dixon and Sterling, and on July 7<sup>th</sup> retired fire fighters will be driving pink fire trucks and delivering bouquets of flowers to cancer victims in the area. From 6-9pm there will be a celebration at the RB&W Patio, with many care providers setting up displays. At 9:00pm there will be the first ever fireworks display at the RB&W District along the riverfront.

With nothing else for the good of the council, a motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Reitzel at 6:58 p.m. to adjourn.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

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Eric Arduini, City Clerk