

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

April 1st, 2014

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

Mayor Wescott noted that several employees were present in the audience. Superintendent Ted Padilla took a few moments to show appreciation for the Public Works employees doing such a good job over the long winter. He stated that the snow started falling on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and really never stopped until March. The city declared 9 multi-day snow emergencies. The crews were always there when called, and there were many late hours that had to be worked to remove the snow. Mayor Wescott added that the crews were busy with more than just snow removal, between water main breaks, sewer emergencies, and frozen lines. He stated that there have been far more positive comments than negative ones this winter. Alderman Hand gave an example of a call for snow removal that he had received, and he said the city is lucky to have these departments, and employees to make respond quickly when events arise. Mr. Padilla said that of the 22 frozen service lines that have happened since the beginning of February, all but 5 have been fixed, and a lot has been learned during this cold winter where the frost went down five feet.

## **Community Affairs:**

Carol Long from the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce stated that the annual Garage Sale Days will be May 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Chamber Golf Outing will be held Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **Ordinance Second Reading / Adoption:**

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Watts to adopt ordinance 2014-2149 amending Municipal Code Article VIII Section 9 Low Speed, and non-highway vehicles on roadway.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Snow to adopt Ordinance 2014-2151 amending the Municipal Code to add Section 9-169 Construction Permit parking areas in the downtown.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Watts to adopt ordinance 2014-2152 amending the date of the use of groundwater as potable water to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

## **Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Wescott asked that the council that item number 6 be removed for consideration from the consent agenda.

A motion was made by alderman Hand, and second by Snow to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation. Included in the consent agenda is:

1. Approve the Minutes of the March 18th , 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Approval of Resolution 2014 - 678 authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the city of Sterling, and Thomas A. Skorepa for an Alternate Hearing Officer.
4. Approval of Resolution 2014 - 679 Armed Forces Parade road closures.
5. Approve at the request of the Finance/Insurance Committee the 2014-2015 renewal with the IPBC (Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative) for Employee Health and Dental Insurance through the NIHII (Northern Illinois Health Insurance Initiative) Sub-Pool. Health decrease of (6%) and Dental cost to remain at the same rate; with no plan changes other than the out of pocket maximum change required to comply with the affordable health care act.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

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

Administrator Blackert presented the council with a PowerPoint slideshow presentation of the FY 2014-2015 budget. Adm. Blackert stated that the budget is balanced with a small surplus. The general fund revenue is \$6,482,284, and expenses is \$6,476,576. It was noted that the majority of the general fund income is derived from sales taxes, and the largest general fund expense is the Police Department followed by Street, and Fire. Adm. Blackert noted that it is the enterprise funds that help make Rock Falls fiscally stable. The Sewer Department plans on hiring another person to bring their staff back up to 5 people. "Well to City "in the Water Department will be completed this year, and a new water main will be installed this year as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue street project. The Electric Department is continuing to upgrade their SCADA, and fiber mapping, and the rebuild of the hydroelectric plant is now finished. The overall city budget is \$21,697,459 in Revenues, and \$21,691,751 in expenses which leaves a surplus of \$5708.00. Alderman Kuhlemier pointed out that the city's portion of any one real estate tax bill is less than 18%. Alderman Watts thanked Adm. Blackert for her hard work. Alderman Snow thanks the departments for being fiscally responsible. Alderman Hand noted that when he was Chairman of the Finance Committee they had to figure the budget on paper, without computers. Mayor Wescott appreciates Administrator Blackert's work with the committees, and the departments. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Schuneman to approve the FY 2014-2015 city budget.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

## **Information / Correspondence**

### **Eric Arduini, City Clerk**

Clerk Arduini informed the council that 2 bid were received for the 2014-2015 lawn maintenance contract. The low bidder was Williams Lawn Care. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Folsom to accept the low bid from, and authorize signing of the 2014-2015 lawn maintenance contract with Williams Lawn Care - 405 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street Rock Falls, IL 61071.

**Vote 7aye motion carried**

### **Building Inspector - Mark Searing**

Inspector Searing explained to the council that Municipal Collection Services currently works for the city as a collection agency for unpaid administrative hearing fines. The city would like to begin using the comptroller's office to do this collection. The city currently uses the comptroller's office for collections in the utility office, and has collected over \$38,000 since January. A motion was made Alderman Hand, and second by Snow to have the Mayor draft, and sign a Notice to Terminate the Collection Service Agreement with Municipal Collection Services, Inc. 7330 College Drive Suite 108 Palos Heights, IL 60463.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Watts to begin the process for vacation of the north-south alley between Route 30, and West 16<sup>th</sup> Street. City Attorney Reese stated that there are certain conditions that have to be met to allow for this concerning adjoining landowners, and monetary considerations. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that the city has done this in the past. Inspector Searing stated that this is for development, and the developer is aware that that there will be costs to do this.

**Vote 7 aye motion carried**

### **Ward Reports:**

Alderman Kuhlemier thanks the individuals who sent their condolences to him and his wife Delores on the passing of his sister-in-law.

Alderman Schuneman reported that the Pelicans have returned as of the first day of spring. He wishes his brother a happy birthday.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Wescott gave his recommendations for appointments to the Fire Department Pension Board. A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Snow to appoint Eric Arduini, city clerk to the board for 3 years, and to appoint Chief Gary Cook to the board for two years.

**Vote 7 aye motion carried**

Mayor Wescott informed the council that he had received a phone call from Carol Helms of Stevens Street. She wanted to thank the Rock Falls and Sterling Fire departments for their great response to a fire at her house. She also wanted to thank the Captain who put dinner in her oven for her.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Snow to enter into executive session at 7:12 for Collective Bargaining Section 2(c)(2)

**Vote 7 aye motion carried**

**Adjournment**

With nothing else for the good of the council a motion to adjourn was made at 7:19p.m. by Alderman Folsom, and second by Snow.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

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Eric Arduini, City Clerk