

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

November 15TH, 2016

6:00pm Public Hearing For approval of a proposed tax levy increase:

Mayor Wescott called the Public meeting to order at 6:00pm. Aldermen Daehle Reitzel, George Logan Jr., Brian Snow, Glen Kuhlemier, Jim Schuneman, Rod Kleckler, and Lee Folsom were present along with City Administrator Robbin Blackert, Mayor Bill Wescott, and City Clerk Eric Arduini. City Attorney Jim Reese joined 10 minutes later.

City Administrator Blackert reviewed, and explained the items which make up the City portion of the tax levy. Option 4 was decided by the Council at the previous meeting. It will raise the City portion of the tax levy by 16.12% funding at the actuarial recommended amounts for Police and Fire Pensions. This option also uses \$126,621 of rural fire funds to help fund the fire pension. 51% of the Rock Falls portion of the tax bill goes to police and fire pensions. The median home price is \$71,000 this would be an increase of around \$65.00. The funding amount of the Fire pension obligation for the City has increased 1861.18% and the Police pension obligation has increased 246% in the past 10 years.

Mayor Wescott added that if the municipality does not meet its obligation in funding these pensions, there are rules in Illinois which would allow the pension boards to notify the Department of revenue to make the pensions whole. The money would be diverted from the city funds, and could lead to reduction in services for the residents.

Ed Mulvaney was the only member of the public to speak at the meeting and he suggested that the City and County could have better coordination for their public hearings as the County meeting is held the same night a half hour later. He would suggest that for an explanation the city use EAV instead of median home values. Mr. Mulvaney informed the Council that through his work at the St Vincent DePaul food bank he sees the families already struggling in the community. Some of these families are renters, but if the landlords have to pay more in taxes, this cost will be handed down to the renters. In the past year 213 Rock Falls families have received \$11,000 in utility assistance, and 1320 families have come for food. He hopes the City thinks about who will have to foot this bill.

6:30 Regular Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. November 15th, 2016 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, Logan, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Kleckler, and Folsom. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese was present.

Presentation:

Carla Pascal, Senior manager at Sikich LLP gave a report to the City Council discussing the 5 reports produced for the City in the conclusion of the FY 2016 audit. Mrs. Pascal remarked on the changes of the new GASB 68 and GASB 71 rules. The liabilities of the Fire and Police pensions, and how percentage changes in the assumption of investment returns can change the liability were illustrated. Mrs. Pascal commended the City for making the journal adjustments

for the first time this year. This process should go easier in the future. She reviewed the issues found and spelled out in the report to the City Council.

Alderman Kuhlemier remarked that Sikich delivered a very comprehensive report, and they could be considered the financial police for the city. Alderman Kuhlemier made a motion to approve the FY16 Audit, second by Alderman Folsom

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Consent Agenda:

The Consent agenda was read aloud by Clerk Arduini. A motion to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman.

1. Approve the Minutes of the November 1st, 2016 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Proclamation - Brayden Hamblen 2016 Class 1A IHSA State Champion
4. Proclamation - Small Business Saturday November 26th, 2016
5. Approval of **Resolution 2016-751** MFT General Maintenance
6. Approval of **Resolution 2016-752** Obligation Retirement Resolution for MFT Alternate Bond Series 2012

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinance First Reading:

Clerk Arduini read aloud the following ordinances and a motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Snow to approve them as read.

1. Approval of **Ordinance 2016-2287** Tax abatement for debt service on \$1,555,000 General Obligation Alternate Bonds (Electric System Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2010
2. Approval of **Ordinance 2016-2288** Tax abatement for debt service on \$720,000 General Obligation Alternate Bonds (MFT Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2012
3. Approval of **Ordinance 2016-2289** Tax abatement for debt service on \$2,427,000 G.O. Debt Certificates Series 2016.
4. Approval of **Ordinance 2016-2291** 2016 property tax levy

Viva voce vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2016-2290** Tax abatement for debt service on \$2,115,000 General Obligation Alternate Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2016.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried (Alderman Reitzel recused himself from this vote)

Information/Correspondence:

City Engineer Brian Frickenstein gave an update to the Council about the progress of the Riverfront Park. Phase I is complete, and came in at a total of \$611,380 which is \$20,000 under the engineer's estimate. Phase II is underway with the bench seating, venue foundation, controller building foundation, and many vendor pads complete. The lighting is going ahead, and some of the lights are on now.

The Route 30 Bridge over the Rock River is now open for traffic.

Department Heads:

Water Department

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla reported that city crews have finished the first part of replacing the piping on filter one and two. There was a pipe that needed reworked, and a local contractor did an outstanding job. All three filters should be back online by Thanksgiving.

Tourism

Tourism Director Janell Loos reminded the Council that Hometown Holidays is November 17th- 19th 2016. The Parade on Saturday starts in Sterling at 1:00pm. There are room blocks available for the Hometown Holidays and Thanksgiving for families returning to Rock Falls. The specials are available at the Tourism website at www.visitrockfalls.com. A new "Twin City Treasure Tour" rack card has been produced for the hotels, and regional kiosks.

Ward Reports:

Ward 2:

Alderman Snow reminded residents to check their smoke alarms, and wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ward 3:

Alderman Schuneman congratulated Braydon Hamlin on his state championship.

Alderman Kleckler asked about the status of the Limestone Building. Adm. Blackert informed him that the State legal department is still reviewing the intergovernmental agreement.

Ward 4:

Alderman Folsom wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott spoke about the Sesquicentennial celebration that will be held July 29th- through August 6th. There is still a lot of work to get done, and the committee is working on a final schedule, and budget. The Tourism committee has recommended moving \$20,000 to the event. A motion for the transfer of funds was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Kuhlemier.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Mayor Wescott informed the committee that Rock Falls was honored with the IMEA "Municipal Electric Agency of the Year" award at the meeting on November 4th. It is reflective on the reliability, affordability, and the quality of the department's staff. The City has won the "Municipal Generation of the Year" award in the past.

Mayor Wescott encourages everyone to visit the businesses downtown during Hometown Holidays. New this year there will be five businesses that will offer a chance to sign up to win \$1000. The winner will be announced at the love light tree, and the winning ticket will be delivered by drone. Mayor Wescott instructed any Aldermen wanting to ride in the Twin City Holiday Parade to meet at the fire station at noon on Saturday.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm.
Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Meeting is adjourned at 7:09pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric Arduini', written over a horizontal line.

Eric Arduini, City Clerk