

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

December 6th, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. December 6th, 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 Attorney Tom Sanders was present.

Audience Requests:

Patricia Manning approached the Council concerning a possible burning ban. Mrs. Manning inquired if the City would be considering allergy issues with flowers planted in the City.

Presentation:

Kathy Manning, an actuary from MWM Consulting, gave a pension plan overview to the City Council. This was the first year for MWM Consulting to perform actuarial work with the City on the Police and Fire Pensions. Mrs. Manning explained the difference between the statutory minimum of 90%, and the fully funding of the plans by the year 2040. The Police Pension is currently funded at 52.77%, and the Fire Pension is funded at 62.66% according to the new accounting valuations.

Alderman Schuneman asked if returns of 7% and 6% are realistic, and he was assured that looking over a period of 20 years, the assumed rates are reasonable.

Alderman Kleckler asked how wages and raises after retirement are determined. These variables are set by State statute.

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 15th, 2016 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinance First Reading:

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

1. Approval of **Ordinance 2016-2292** Amending Municipal Code Chapter 2, Article VII, Division 3 - Duties of the City Clerk
2. Approval of **Ordinance 2016-2293** Amending Municipal Code Chapter 2, Article VII, adding Division 5.5 creating the office of City Collector.
3. Adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2295** adding Subsection 108 to Section 18-120- Stop Intersections Designated for the corner of Lindy Avenue and West 19th Street.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ordinance Second Reading/ Adoption

1. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2287** Tax abatement for debt service on \$1,555,000 General Obligation Alternate Bonds (Electric System Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2010.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

2. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2288** Tax abatement for debt service on \$720,000 General Obligation Alternate Bonds (MFT Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2012.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

3. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2289** Tax abatement for debt service on \$2,427,000 G.O. Debt Certificates Series 2016.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

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

Vote 6 aye, motion carried (Alderman Reitzel recused himself from this vote)

5. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2291** 2016 Property Tax Levy.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

6. A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2294** Authorizing Lease of Real Estate in the Glen's Garden Subdivision for farming.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

7. A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2296** authorizing lease agreements for buildings upon lot 2 of Glen's Garden subdivision.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

8. A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Schuneman for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2297** disposal of surplus property - pumps and parts from pump station remodel.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin Blackert:

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier for the approval of **Resolution 2016-753** governing the reimbursement of travel expenses for City Officers and Employees.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier for the approval of the Collection Services Agreement with ONLINE Collections - P.O. Box 1489 Winterville NC.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow for the conveyance of the right of way upon acceptance by owner to pay City's expenses for the conveyance at 310 Ada Street. Administrator Blackert explained that this would normally go through the Public Property Committee first, but since the surveying has been done for the conveyance of the property to the west, it would be a cost savings to do have the plat and legal description finished now.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to instruct the City Administrator to proceed with funding options for the fiber optic buildout using general funds as the alternate revenue source. Administrator Blackert informed the Council that the original intent was to use the Electric Fund as the alternate funding source for obtaining revenue bonds to fund the buildout of fiberhoods. The bond council has informed the City that it would have to use the general fund as the alternative funding source. Adm. Blackert explained the buildout costs, including O&M, and the costs for Magellan to design the system. Magellan will be giving a presentation to the Council in January. Fiberhoods will be built out when there is 45% buy-in and the City will not be spending capital until there is buy-in. The City will be divided into 20 Fiberhoods, and the business plan is anticipating 14 fiberhoods be built out. A dashboard was presented illustrating the funding of \$13M over 20 years.

Alderman Schuneman informed the Council that the Committee has been working on the project for 3 years. The bond counsel, Chapman and Cutler, is looking out for taxpayers, and ratepayers. The business plan is mammoth, this will be another enterprise fund that will help Rock Falls provide a better quality of life, and bring more business.

Alderman Kleckler noted that these changes requested from the bond counsel are significant, and some are not tax free which will increase the cost to the City. Creditors could remove funds from the General Fund if funds are not available from the broadband fund.

Vote 6 aye, 1 nay (Kleckler) motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that Rise Broadband sent a letter to the City informing us that their internet offerings are changing, and the offering to City Hall would not support VOIP for the City hall phone system. With the changes happening on December 31st, Adm. Blackert has contacted Comcast to begin a buildout to supply the broadband needed to try to keep the phones working at City Hall. Rise Broadband informed all of their customers of these changes just before Thanksgiving.

Mayor Wescott added that Rise has put out many business and residential customers in this way. A motion to ratify the emergency actions taken was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Folsom.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Information/Correspondence:

City Clerk Eric Arduini reminded the Council that the filing dates for the April 4th Consolidated Election are December 12th through December 19th, 2016.

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow to approve the cash farm lease with Ted Jacobs for one year of the farmland in the Glen's Garden subdivision at \$178.00/acre for 57.5 acres.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Snow to approve the lease agreement with Martin & Company Excavating for lease of a building on lot 2 of Glen's Garden Subdivision in the amount of \$500.00 per month.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Engineer Brian Frickenstein reported that the work at the RB&W Greenspace is finishing up for the winter, and seeding will be done in the spring. All of the work should be finished by April 30th.

Department Heads:

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla informed the Council that the booster pumps are removed and inspected every 10-12 years. A motion was made Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the recommendation from the Public Works Committee for repairs to booster pump #3 by Layne 721 W. Illinois Avenue, Aurora, IL. 60506 in the amount of \$13984.50.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ward Reports:

Ward 1:

Alderman Reitzel thanked Larry Spinka and all of the departments for helping with snow removal. He remarked that the new plow trucks are quiet.

Ward 2:

Alderman Kuhlemier remarked that the riverfront report on Channel 8 was really outstanding for our community. He informed the committee that the Finance Committee meeting will be moved to December 20th, 2016 at 5:30.

Alderman Snow congratulated Alderman Kleckler on his new addition to his family (great granddaughter).

Ward 3:

Alderman Schuneman informed the committee that the Electric Committee meeting will be moved to December 22nd, 2016. He also thanks his Secret Santa.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott discussed a letter received from iFiber. They have requested to use the Rock Falls boxes to feed businesses fiber optic services in our community. A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and Second by Alderman Snow to send a letter denying the request. Attorney Tom Sanders reviewed the request and contract, and their request would require prior authorization from the City.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried (Alderman Kuhlemier abstained due to a conflict of interest with his work at the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council)

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that work continues with the consolidated dispatch. He recently asked to be on the agenda to address the Sterling council, and was not allowed to be on the agenda. He spoke during the public comments section of the Sterling council meeting on Monday. An intergovernmental agreement which will spell out all of the details for all agencies involved was sent to Sterling six weeks ago, and Rock Falls has heard no response or comments on it. Another IGA will be presented at a meeting on December 13th. Whiteside County, CGH Medical Center, Rock Falls and Sterling all have representation on a board, and had two candidates for the position of dispatch director. There was a vote of 3-1 to hire a very qualified candidate. Sterling does not agree with the consensus, and would like to hire their own current employee to fill the position. Sterling is a management form of government and all hiring for the City is done by the City Manager. Sterling assures everyone that no one has been hired. E911 equipment installation is moving forward, and that should have been the hard part of the process. Mayor Wescott is looking for a more productive meeting, and the new IGA will be given to the Aldermen for review.

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that the Toys for Tots drop-off box is located in the hallway at City Hall.

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 8:09pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Meeting is adjourned at 8:09pm



Eric Arduini, City Clerk