



## City of Rock Falls Ordinance License Personnel Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 5-25-2017

Time Meeting Started: 5:30

Time Meeting Ended: 7:04 PM

Members		Also Attended	
Alderman Reitzel – Chairman	p	Mayor Wescott	p
Alderman Snow	p	Administrator Blackert	p
Alderman Schuneman	p	Clerk Arduini	p
		Alderman Kuhlemier	p
Alderman Sobottka	P	Police Chief Nelson	
Alderman Kuhlemier	P	Alderman Logan	p
		Alderman Reitzel	p
Also Attended			
		Judy Randall	p

Topic	Discussion	Plan of Action
1.Call to Order. – Chairman Reitzel	Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm	Meeting begins at 5:30pm
2.Audience Requests	Judy Randall spoke concerning the burning ban. She gave facts about the 3 primary pollutants found in burning leaves. Mrs. Randall read a letter from Kathy Drea of the American Lung Association which will be added to the record with these minutes. She urges leaders to make healthy decisions.	No action
3.Approve Minutes: Ordinance /License /Personnel /Safety Meeting May 4th, 2017	The minutes were reviewed by the committee	Minutes approved
4.Old Business: a.Review of Ordinance for Food truck license	The committee reviewed the changes to the ordinance from Attorney Reese. They would like the license to run with the Fiscal year. Vending would not be allowed, and vendors could be told to leave public areas if there is a City event of festival going on. Noise of generators needs to be addressed, as loud generators will not be allowed. The vendor cannot take more than 2 spaces in a parking lot.	
5.New Business: a.(A-1 Agricultural District) Section 34-126. When authorized by board of appeals.	Mayor Wescott explained the current zoning principal uses, special use, and accessory uses of zoning districts. A business in the A-1 has obtained a special use permit for a campground to be located in A-1. The owner would now like to sell groceries including alcohol so that his patrons do not have to leave the campground. There is no current provision for the owner to sell alcohol in an A-1 zoning area. The committee recommends that a special use be added to the A-1 zoning to allow for alcohol sales. Alderman Kuhlemier cautioned the special use provisions as they have led to businesses being located in residential areas.	A drafted ordinance will be created for 1 <sup>st</sup> reading at Council
b.Chapter 32 Article II Section 32-27(b) Supplemental or additional charges.	Mayor Wescott reported that there are still 7 residents who have not come from well to water. Five of them have been fined, 3 of them obtained a permit. The ordinance allows for the Water Superintendent to make an agreement which will pay for the hookup, and let the customer pay it back over 12 months. The cost of these installations can be over \$2000.00, and one year is not enough time to make it affordable. The Committee recommends that the Superintendent be given discretion to make agreements with the remaining customers. The question was asked that if the work is paid for by the City initially, does it need to be paid at the prevailing wage.	Tabled to get advice from the City Attorney.
c.Article VI. Open Burning	Alderman Snow presented 40 pages of information concerning the burning ban He would like to see the City do what is right for the health of the community. He had polled a number of people, and found it to be about ½ supporting the burn ban. Alderman Kleckler and Alderman Sobottka asked for a compromise that may ease residents towards a burn ban over time. The committee discussed burning by declaration, having a designated area for leaf disposal, and purchasing a leaf collection machine.	

	<p>Alderman Logan reminded the committee that the City provides a way to dispose of the leaves at no cost.</p> <p>Alderman Schuneman reiterated that the committee has tried to compromise, and one cannot be reached. The prairie plots will still need to be burned every year. There are far too many trees growing in the prairie due to non-burning.</p>	
6.Workers Compensation/Liability Reports	The committee reviewed the report	Report approved
7.Department Safety Meeting Minutes Review	The committee reviewed the minutes	Minutes approved
8.Committee Member items	<p>Alderman Kleckler asked about Municipal Code Section 22-5 which requires food establishments to sterilize their food utensils. And Section 22-4 making it unlawful to bury someone outside of a cemetery.</p>	No action



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Committee Chairman

May 25, 2017

TO: Rock Falls City Council

RE: Leaf Burning Ordinance

Nearly all leaf burning occurs during the fall and spring seasons and mostly on weekends, so hundreds of pounds of leaves are burned in a period of a few hours, creating large concentrations of pollutants. Because leaves are burned at ground level, the smoke is highly concentrated. The toxic effects of these substances are a threat to everyone's health, but potentially devastating to the 42 percent of Illinoisans who are most seriously affected by poor air quality.

Particulate matter from burning leaves is microscopic and can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and imbed there. These tiny microscopic particles can stay imbedded in the lungs and cause serious respiratory problems as long as four months after being inhaled. Vulnerable populations such as small children and the elderly are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of leaf burning.

I often hear from both parents of small children and from elderly people who must stay inside during days when leaf burning is allowed. They cover doors and windows with plastic and stuff towels under their doors to try to keep the smoke out of their home. Often leaf burning is done on the most pleasant days of autumn – when children should be outdoors playing! When exposed to leaf burning smoke, a person may experience aggravated coughing, painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, shortness of breath, work and school absences and trips to the emergency room and even premature death. I also often hear from school personnel when the schools are located in residential areas. When leaf burning occurs near schools the smoke can enter the building through open windows or seep in through cracks. If students and school personnel are at recess outdoors they can be surrounded by clouds of smoke. Obviously, neither teachers nor students can just leave the area to get away from the smoke – they are trapped until the end of the school day.

There are many alternatives to leaf burning – the easiest being a mulching mower. Leaves and yard waste biodegrade relatively quickly. Simply bagging leaves and other yard waste is an environmentally friendly way to approach the problem. On the East Coast, where leaf burning has been banned for 50+ years, the leaves are collected and then sold back to residents as fertilizer or mulch. This practice offers both fiscal and environmental benefits for communities who choose not to burn.

In closing, I would like to say that foregoing the fire might mean learning a new way to do things but inconvenience or nostalgia for the smell of burning leaves are not really good arguments to allow leaf burning when someone's health is at risk.

Thank you for your kind consideration,



Kathy Drea  
Vice President, Advocacy

Executive Director  
Michael Mark

*Please remember the American Lung Association in your will and trust.*