

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

December 15th, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. December 15th, 2015 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, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Kleckler, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Snow was absent. In addition City Attorney James Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Audience Request:

1. Kelly Keaschall thanked the City for the years of support given to the RFCDC. He hopes that the two can continue to work together in the future.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented by omnibus designation by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Reitzel.

1. Approve the Minutes of the December 1st, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2015-724** M.F.T. General Maintenance materials.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinances First Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Watts and second by Alderman Folsom to approve the first reading of the following ordinances.

1. Approval of **Ordinance 2015-2247** amending Sec. 8-823 Door to Door Solicitations Registration and License Required.
2. Approval of **Ordinance 2015-2248** amending Sec. 2-116 Impersonation, 10-123(g) Prairie Grass regulation, and 15-441 Fee.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ordinances Second Reading / Adoption

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan to adopt **Ordinance 2015-2244** approving the FY 16 tax levy.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman to adopt **Ordinance 2015-2245** Tax abatement for electric bond.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adopt **Ordinance 2015-2246** Tax abatement for motor fuel tax bond.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert informed the Council that Ken Freeman from Bass Pro Shop's Big Cat Quest Tournament had approached the Tourism committee recently. Mr. Freeman gave a detailed presentation about a two day event to be held at the slab in the RB&W District on June 25th and 26th corresponding with the Rock Falls River Chase and the Summer Splash events. City Attorney James Reese is finishing the details on the contract with Pro Shop's Big Cat Quest. A motion to approve hosting and funding the event not to exceed \$15,000 with Attorney Reese's review and recommendation of the contract, was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Watts.

Alderman Logan stated that the opportunity is tremendous, and it will grow to a long lasting event. Alderman Watts mentioned that the timeframe seems tight to get this on the schedule, but Janell Loos from Tourism has put a lot of time into this project.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert stated that the Phase I environmental study of the Hallman Property has been completed. A Phase II study will need to be done at the big trucking building on Lot 2 at a cost of \$13,500. The City will be closing on this part of the property on Friday December 18th, 2015, and the rest of the property will be closed on January 20th, 2016. A motion to approve the Phase II environmental contract with Terracon was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Reitzel.

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that if items are found during the study that need to be cleaned up, the sellers will be responsible, and the amount of the cleanup will be deducted from the price of the second sale.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Alderman Reitzel made a motion and second by Alderman Logan to approve the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission for allowing crop production in M-1 areas larger than 5 acres. Adm. Blackert explained that this is needed to comply with the ordinances.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Alderman Schuneman made a motion, and second by Alderman Watts for the approval of **Resolution 2015-726** approving the final plat of Glen's Gardens subdivision. Attorney Reese explained that this parcel must be closed on by December 21st, 2015. The City can proceed with the Phase II evaluation, and if cleanup is needed the amount can be withheld from the purchase of the other land.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried (Alderman Kuhlemier abstained)

Administrator Blackert wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and informed the Council that she will be taking the next week off for vacation.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Alderman George Logan wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.

Ward 2

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier hopes everyone enjoys the goodness and the spirit of the Holiday. He mentioned the passing of two great activists in the community Felina Hasselman, who had been involved with Head Start and feeding children. Deloris "Dee" Freas who had been active in the "Rails to Trails" initiative.

Ward 3

Alderman Jim Schuneman reported that this is his first eagle report of the year, and there are at least two eagles in town currently. Mr. Schuneman also commented on the good turnout for the Hennepin Canal - Trails committee meeting where Steve Buchtel gave his presentation concerning the trails. Alderman Schuneman everyone a Merry Christmas.

Alderman Rod Kleckler inquired what had happened to the liberty bell on 1st Avenue. Mayor Wescott explained that the agreement when it was placed there in 1976, was for it to remain there and be maintained as long as Delmar McNinch owned the property. The bell and plaques are currently being stored in the Street Department and will be put back on display at the riverfront, or somewhere else.

Ward 4

Alderman Lee Folsom wishes everyone a Happy Holidays

Alderman John Watts wished everyone a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. Mr. Watts also commented on the bridge reconstruction on Route 40 over the Hennepin Canal. The northbound lane has been striped, and should be open soon.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott informed the Council of the recommendation from the Finance Committee to terminate the agreement with the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation. Mayor Wescott stated that the City would need to give 90 days' notice. After much discussion, and thanks given to everyone involved in the RFCDC for their hard work, a motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan to terminate the agreement with the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation on April 30, 2016.

Vote 6 aye 1 nay (Folsom)

Mayor Wescott presented a packet to the Council from Stanley Consultants concerning replacing the pumps at the main wastewater pump station. The change order presented was to increase the size of the pumps, and also make them submersible. The lead time on these pumps is 20 weeks, and a formal change order will be presented at the next City Council meeting. After much discussion a motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Logan for tentative approval of the change order with a vote for ratification at the January 5th, 2015 Council meeting.

Mayor Wescott informed the council about the passage of SB 2305, and reported that some of the held funds have been distributed to the city.

Mayor Wescott invited the Council to a property tax freeze presentation being held in Dixon on December 18th, 2015 at the Town Square Center.

Mayor Wescott thanked all of the City employees for their hard work over the year, reminded them that the City Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19th, 2015 beginning at 5:00pm.

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 7:23pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried