

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

February 3rd, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. February 3rd, 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, Snow, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Community Affairs

Bethany Bland, President / CEO, of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce gave her appreciation to all of the city crews for getting the power restored to the city. Mrs. Bland spoke about the upcoming Annual Dinner, and the Shoulder to the Wheel awards to be presented that night. Mrs. Bland also informed the Council about an upcoming Basket and Bags Bingo event.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 20th, 2015 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.

A motion to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Logan.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Blackert explained to the Council that the OSLAD grant is on hold as Governor Rauner assesses all non-essential state spending. She read a letter received by the city. The paperwork for the grant is still on a deadline, and the city will go ahead with the necessary paperwork without spending the money until it is appropriated.

Alderman Hand questioned if the city had incurred costs on the project, and Adm. Blackert stated that there have been engineering costs.

A motion for ratification of the OSLAD Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for the RB&W District was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Hand.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the council that Sikich had made a presentation recently to the Finance Committee as they were selected from an RFP for auditing firms. Alderman Kuhlemier noted that the representatives gave a good presentation, and the committee was impressed with their experience with communities that have many enterprise departments such as ours. They have given many good presentations at IML. Many of the original River Cities which have municipal electric are using Sikich as their auditing firm.

Adm. Blackert stated that the city does not have a formal policy, but it has been customary for the city to seek RFPs every 3 years for auditing services.

Mayor Wescott added that the city has three utilities, and many cities in the IMEA use this company.

Attorney Reese questioned if the contract would have provisions included in it that would allow the city to exit the contract if the city was not satisfied with the performance of the auditors.

A motion to approve a 3 year contract with Sikich 6815 Weaver Road, Rockford, IL for City Auditing Services. Contract not to exceed \$44,000.00 year ending April 30, 2015, \$44,880.00 year ending April 30, 2016 and \$46,227.00 for year ending April 30, 2017 was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman with review and approval of the city attorney.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert reported on the \$200,000 USEPA assessment grant. Adm. Blackert informed the Council that due to the weather, we will not see much activity at the site. Adm. Blackert stated that the city had filed the quarterly report, has a contact person for the grant, and the city is working on the quality assurance progress plan.

Information/Correspondence:

City Clerk Eric Arduini informed the Council that if they would like to turn in their Statement of Economic Interest forms in to the Clerk's Office, he will deliver them to the County Clerk in about a week.

Brian Frickenstein, City Engineer informed the Council that the bids for MFT materials have been received, and he recommends that the City award the bids to all of the suppliers to give the City maximum flexibility in obtaining material.

Administrator Blackert added that this year's bids were a little different as the city also bid out emulsion used with the patching machine.

A motion to accept all bids was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Logan.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Department Heads:

Building Inspector Mark Searing asked the Council for approval to apply for a Miracle Grow 2015 Grass Roots Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. He stated that this will be used for the prairie area along the old train tracks. A motion to apply for the grant was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Reitzel.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Inspector Searing opened a bid for the sale of City property located at 606 East 4th Street. The single bid was made by Eduardo Trujillo for \$8000.00.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1:

Alderman Daehle Reitzel thanked all of the city employees who helped through the "Snowmageddon"

Alderman George Logan Jr. recognized the crews in the Street and Electric Departments for their work with the snow storm.

Ward 2:

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier spoke about the upcoming Rural Affairs conference being held March 6th and 7th. This will be held in Peoria, and he recommends other council members to attend. It will be the first one hosted by the new Lieutenant Governor.

Alderman Brian Snow thanked the Electric Department for restoring the power so quickly considering the amount of outages. He thinks that it is good for the community to know that the city crews are there for us. He asks residents, and businesses to remove snow on the sidewalks for those who use them.

Ward 3:

Alderman Dave Hand thanked all of the City employees for helping get the streets cleared, and putting in so many hours. He also thanked Robbin Blackert for keeping the Aldermen informed about the City's work during the snow storm.

Alderman Schuneman was thankful for the great job the City crews did, especially Electric.

Ward 4:

Alderman John Watts thanked the Electric Department for getting the power back on, and he thanked the Police Department for their support in fielding calls. He also spoke about the importance of shoveling sidewalks because it is hard to see people walking on busy streets.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott reminded the Council to sign up for the Chamber annual dinner if they wished to attend.

Mayor Wescott said that there will be a schedule presented to the Council at the next meeting for public information meetings about the ½ cent sales tax referendum.

Mayor Wescott spoke about the recent winter storm, and stated that it was not a normal storm. Parts of Illinois Route 40 had to be closed due to poor conditions. The city's first priority is snow routes, after the main roads are open, the crews move on to the secondary streets. Mayor Wescott's road was not cleared until 3:00pm on Monday. In many cases the Street Department had to be pulled off of the streets to help pull out stuck Electric Department and Fire trucks. The downtown area is to be cleared after midnight on Tuesday. Mayor Wescott asks for patience with the snow removal process. Mayor Wescott asks that business owners not push the snow from their lots into piles close to the roads.

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 6:54pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk