

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

February 17th, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. February 17th, 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, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Snow was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Audience requests:

Former resident Bob Cushman now of Galt, IL introduced himself to the Council. He is attending his first council meeting, and has recently moved back into the area after 40 years.

Community Affairs

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council of the upcoming Chamber Annual Dinner.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the February 3rd, 2015 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Resolution 2015-707 Adopting the Customer Information Confidentiality Policy

City Administer Robbin Blackert asked attorney Reese if the Customer Information Confidentiality Policy should be signed by both employees, and elected officials.

Attorney Reese stated that both should sign and agree to the policy.

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

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinance 1st Reading

1. 2015-2192 Amending Section 9-163(d) – Handicapped Parking Ada Street
2. 2015-2198 Amending Section 5-78 Bond and Registration for Contractors
3. 2015-2195 Amending Section 15-76(b) and (c) Water Rates and Charges
4. 2015-2196 Amending Section 15-266 Wastewater Rates and Charges
5. 2015-2199 Approval of the updated zoning map

Mayor Wescott asked that items 3 and 4 be voted on separately.

A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Watts to approve the first reading of Ordinances 2015-2192, 2015-2198, and 2015-2199.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the first reading of ordinance 2015-2195.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried Aldermen Hand and Folsom voting nay

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the first reading of ordinance 2015-2196.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried Aldermen Hand and Folsom voting nay

Ordinance 2nd Reading / Adoption:

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Hand for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2194 Sale of Real Estate 606 East 4th Street to Eduardo Trujillo - \$8000.00.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Watts for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2193 Disposal of Surplus Property 1986 Ford F350 Bucket Truck for salvage price.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Kuhlemier for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2197 Sale of Surplus Equipment - Fire Department Radios

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Information/Correspondence:

Department Heads:

Police Chief Michael Kuelper informed the Council that his last working day will be February 27th, 2015. He thanked the Council for a great 31years.

Mayor Wescott thanked Police Chief Kuelper for spending his career with the City. He encouraged the Council to join the City for a reception on February 27th at the Community Building from 10-2 being held for the Chief. Mayor Wescott stated that Chief Kuelper's terminal leave will last until April, and the City will ask him back at a Council meeting at that time. Mayor Wescott stated that Chief Kuelper worked his way up through the ranks up to "Top Dog". When the City was looking for a new Police Chief, the City was very fortunate to have the choice of this top candidate that we have kept on the force.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that Mr. Kuelper came onto the force under his watch as he was Mayor at the time.

Alderman Schuneman recalled being on vacation out west, and watching the television. Chief Kuelper on his first day as Chief was in front of the press on national news talking about some bad events that had happened that day. Alderman Schuneman states that it has been an honor serving with Chief Kuelper.

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that Building Inspector Mark Searing is absent as his father is ill in the hospital. He requests the Council to keep him in their thoughts.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1:

Alderman Daehle Reitzel thanked Chief Kuelper for his work.

Alderman George Logan Jr. thanked Chief Kuelper for his service.

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier wishes Chief Kuelper all of the benefits of retirement. He also spoke about the ribbon cutting he attended at the Casey's store on Route 30. He recommends everyone visit the store to see the improvements.

Ward 3:

Alderman Dave Hand thanked Chief Kuelper, and stated that there is no snow on the streets.

Alderman Schuneman mentioned that it is getting cold again, and he reminds residents to check on neighbors and pets. Mayor Wescott inquired as to eagle sightings, and they reported around 30 bald eagles now feeding at the lower dam.

Ward 4:

Alderman Lee Folsom thanked Chief Kuelper for many dedicated years.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott mentioned that soon more information will be out in print and on radio media concerning the referendum on the ballot. The question of the voters is an additional ½ cent sales tax dedicated to street and infrastructure maintenance. Mayor Wescott stated that there will be three public meetings held in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Wednesday February 25th at 6:00pm

Wednesday March 4th at 6:00pm

Wednesday March 16th at 10:00am

Mayor Wescott added that these dates and times will be added to Channel 5, and the meetings will be broadcast live for those who cannot make it to the meeting. Informational fliers will be added to the electric bills. Anyone with questions may also call the Mayor's office. Mayor Wescott added that the meeting will be used to explain property tax, and what it is used for. Administrator Blackert added that the meetings will explain how we calculate motor fuel tax, and where the road repair money comes from.

Alderman Hand inquired if the meeting will explain what projects the new tax revenues will go towards, or types of repairs. Mr. Hand also asked how soon if passed, the city would see any of the money start coming in?

Mayor Wescott explained that it could be six months or longer before the city can see income from the added sales tax.

Executive Session:

A motion to enter executive session for Section 2(c)(11) was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Reitzel.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Council entered Executive Session at 6:57pm

City Council returned to Regular Session at 7:24pm

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