

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

March 3rd, 2015

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

Community Affairs

Julie Jacobs, Chairman of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, informed the Council that they are hosting a Basket Bingo Saturday March 7th, 2015. The Chamber will be hosting a Candidate's Forum on March 25th, 2015 in the Rock Falls Council Chambers. This will be open to candidates in Rock Falls and Sterling, as well as school board candidates. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Chamber by March 15th, 2015. Mayor Wescott commented that the turnout for the annual dinner seemed high, and Mrs. Jacobs thought that there were 175 attendees.

Ordinance 1st Reading

1. 2015-2200 Amending Section 14-122 - Sidewalks; placement; standards
2. 2015-2201 Amending Section 8-1043, 8-1047 - 8-1049, 8-1051, 8-1053 - 8-1055 for changes to the Raffle License

Alderman Kuhlemier commented that the sidewalk ordinance is good for future development. Mayor Wescott explained that the ordinance will require subdivisions to install sidewalks on both sides of the street. A motion to approve the first reading of Ordinances 2015-2200, and 2015-2201 was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ordinance 2nd Reading / Adoption

1. A motion for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2192 - Amending Section 9-163(d) - to allow for handicapped parking on Ada Street was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Watts.

Vote 7aye, motion carried

2. A motion for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2198 - Amending Section 5-78 Bond and Registration for Contractors, was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Logan.

Vote 7aye, motion carried

3. A motion for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2195 - Amending Section 15-76(b) and (c) Water Rates and Charges was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Logan.

Vote 5aye, 2nay (Hand, Folsom)

4. A motion for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2196 - Amending Section 15-266 Wastewater Rates and Charges was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Watts. City Administrator Robbin Blackert thanked the Department Heads, Finance Committee, and Public Works Committee for their work on these rate changes.
Vote 5aye, 2nay (Hand, Folsom)

5. A motion for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2199 - Approval of the updated zoning map was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Folsom.
Vote 7aye, motion carried

6. A motion for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2022 - Approval to allow for the trade of surplus vehicles was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Watts.
Vote 7aye, motion carried

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the February 17th, 2015 Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of Jay Koett to be working as Acting Operational Commander effective retroactively from February 27th, 2015 until March 4th, 2015.
4. Approval of the employment agreement with Jay Koett for Police. Department Operational Commander effective March 4th, 2015
5. Approval of job description: Tourism & Event Director.
6. Referral to the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals, a request made by Whiteside County for PIN#11-28-152-002 be changed from R-2 and B-1 to B-1.
7. Approval of the purchase of a 2014 Impala from Pete Harkness Auto Group 2811 Locust Street Sterling, IL 61081 for \$12,946 and trade-in

Mayor Wescott thanked Clerk Arduini, and Building Inspector Searing for their work on updating the zoning map. Alderman Kuhlemier mentioned that he was not in favor of the Tourism position being moved, but he sees the necessity of having the job description approved. Alderman Folsom agreed. A motion to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Snow.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Department Heads:

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla informed the Council that groundwater and electrical training will begin soon for sophomores, and 5th graders. This program has been running for 8 years. The scholarship will be coming up and a winner will be announced in April or May. Alderman Kuhlemier commended Mr. Padilla, and Mr. Simon for their work with the kids, and helping with educating the students about electric and groundwater safety.

Ward 2:

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier hopes that the slippery roads will improve, and he also hopes for an excellent trip with Alderman Schuneman to the Rural Affairs conference.

Ward 3:

Alderman Schuneman welcomes acting Police Chief Tammy Nelson.

Ward 4:

Alderman Watts would like to direct everyone to the city's Facebook page where there are some very nice pictures of resident bald eagles posted. The photos were taken by local photographers Bradley Icenogle, and Gierhart Photo Graphics. There is also an eagle video posted by Dennis Scott.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott reported that he had recently had spoken with Dixon Mayor Jim Burke, and there will be a roundtable of local leaders on Thursday March 5th at 10:30. The discussion will focus around developing a game plan to respond to the effects that State budget cuts will have on municipalities.

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that there will be two more informational meetings about the ½ cent sales tax referendum. They will be held on Wednesday March 4th at 6:00pm, and Wednesday March 16th at 10:00am. The meetings will be televised, and there will also be a fact sheet sent out in the utility bills this month.

Mayor Wescott commented on a press release that was sent out. The City of Rock Falls will be recognized at the National Brownfields Conference in Chicago in September. The City will be presenting on the success of the RB&W District that was formerly 30 abandoned industrial buildings, and the potential of a great new riverfront.

Mayor Wescott announced that he will be delivering his State of the City address at the March 17th Council meeting.

Executive Session:

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

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Council entered Executive Session at 6:51pm

City Council returned to Regular Session at 7:25pm

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Snow at 7:25pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk