

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

April 21st, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. April 21<sup>st</sup>, 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

**Community Affairs:**

Kadina Hodges, Event Coordinator for the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce informed the Council that they were invited to the Thompson Prison. The Chamber was able to tell employees and others about Rock Falls. Mrs. Hodges stated that the Summer Splash will be held June 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and requested a road closure of 1<sup>st</sup> Street for the event.

**Special Recognition**

Mayor Wescott thanked Police Chief Michael Kuelper for 31 years of service to Rock Falls and its residents. A number of officers and family were in attendance to view Mayor Wescott present a plaque to Mr. Kuelper.

**Proclamation:**

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Snow to approve a proclamation for Earth Day April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 and Drinking Water Week May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

**Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts to approve the first reading of ordinance 2015-2208 - Energy Conservation Code  
**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

**Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Adoption**

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Folsom for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2205 - Amending Section 15-336 allowing for commercial electrical service to be provided at two points.  
**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2207 - Amending Section 15-109 to allow for the emergency disconnection of water services that have a pipe leaking or ruptured between the stop box and meter on private property.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that this ordinance is vitally important because there have been ruptures on private property in the past.

Alderman Schuneman recognized that there is unaccounted water, but feels that this is a knee jerk reaction to a difficult and complex problem. Mr. Schuneman stated that leaks cost everyone, and he will be holding the Water Department's feet to the fire for fixing City water issues.

Alderman Hand stated that a rate study that had been done in the past showed that there were leaks on the city side.

**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Snow for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2209 - Sale of Surplus Property (Electric Dept. 2002 Ford F550)

**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Watts for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2210 Increasing the Non-home Rule Retailers Occupation Tax and Non-home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax to the Rate of 1.00%.

Mayor Wescott explained that the Ordinance needed to be passed to inform the Illinois Department of Revenue of the passage of the referendum to help fund infrastructure and road work.

**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

#### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the Minutes of the April 7th, 2015 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented
3. Request from St. Andrews Catholic School for the closure of a portion of Ave A for the annual Spring Fest May 13 – May 17, 2015

After some discussion with members from St. Andrews it was understood if any carnival rides are to be placed on Avenue A the outriggers would need to be blocked to not damage the new road. A motion to pass the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Logan.

**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

## **Ward Reports:**

### **Ward 2**

Alderman Kuhlemier recognized the passing of Frank Kane who ran the Rock Falls area dog control.

### **Ward 3**

Alderman Schuneman gave thanks to the Street Department employees, and well as the Fire Department C-shift for their help in burning off the prairie grass. He reported that ComEd came back and was cutting the brush along the right of way. Mr. Schuneman also thanked Alderman Dave Hand for his 24 years of service to Rock Falls.

### **Ward 4**

Alderman Folsom echoed Alderman Schuneman's remarks and Mr. Folsom said that Dave Hand did a darn good job.

## **Executive Session:**

A motion was made Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Logan to enter executive session for Personnel Section 2(c)(1) and Litigation Section 2(c)(11).

### **Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

City Council entered into executive session at 7:00pm

City Council returns to regular session at 7:35pm

## **Any action taken from Executive Session**

A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Folsom to approve the three non-contract employee's salaries and the department head contracts per the recommendations of the City Administrator.

### **Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Logan to approve the settlement agreement between the City of Rock Falls and the Rock Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau Inc. upon final approval by the City Attorney.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried (Alderman Kuhlemier had recused himself as he was a former board member of the RFCVB.)**

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Wescott read a prepared statement concerning the February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Sewer Pump Station failure. Following the statement a motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Hand to approve the release, and settlement agreement between the City of Rock Falls and Willett Hofmann & Associates in the amount of \$815,379.15.

**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

Mayor Wescott briefed the Council on the recent broadband conference that he attended. Mr. Wescott stated that he got a real sense of what the Federal Government is looking to do with rural broadband. When the city is ready to move forward there will be items on the agenda in the future. Mayor Wescott stated that broadband will be a separate enterprise fund.

Mayor Wescott stated that the City has been receiving a lot of phone calls concerning the closure of the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge. Mayor Wescott called the Illinois Department of Transportation and found that IDOT plans to close the bridge on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The bridge will be repaired in two phases. First the south section from Rock Falls to Lawrence Island will be closed, then the north section will be closed, and Lawrence Island will be accessible from the south. He stated that Rock Falls High School, and the Health Department will be accessible throughout the construction.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts that Alderman Kuhlemier be appointed Mayor Pro-Tem while Mayor Wescott is away April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Vote: 7 aye motion carried Alderman Kuhlemier abstained**

Mayor Wescott explained that the incoming elected officials will be seated at the May 5, 2015 City Council Meeting. Mayor Wescott thanked Alderman Hand for all of his hard work in serving Rock Falls. Mayor Wescott served alongside him in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn at 7:50pm.

**Vote: 8 aye motion carried**

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Eric Arduini, City Clerk