

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

April 7th, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. April 7th, 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:

Bethany Bland, President /CEO, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce thanked the Council for the use of the Council Chambers, and equipment during the meet the candidates night. She mentioned that the next quarterly meeting will be April 16th, and the City-Wide Garage Sales will be May 15th-17th, 2015. Mrs. Bland also informed the Council that the Farmer's Market will have a new logo, and more types of vendors this year.

Proclamation:

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Snow to approve the proclamation for Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service. Barb Walcott and a number of helpers with the Foster Grandparent's program were in attendance to receive a copy of the proclamation.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week. A number telecommunicators from the local departments were in attendance to receive a copies of the proclamation.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

Ordinance 1st Reading

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Hand to accept the first reading of the following ordinances:

1. Ordinance 2015-2205 Amending Section 15-336 allowing for commercial electrical service to be provided at two points.

2. 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.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

Ordinance 2nd Reading / Adoption

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Alderman Watts for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2203 Sale of Surplus equipment - IP Phone System.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2204 Amending Zoning Map from R-2 to B-1 for areas north of the Whiteside County Health Department.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Watts for the adoption of Ordinance 2015-2206 vacating the subdivision plat for Rock Falls Industrial Park Subdivision No. 6.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the March 17th, 2015 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the supplemental agreement for construction services relating to the main wastewater pumping improvements with Stanley Consultants not to exceed \$65,200.
4. Approval of the low bid from Twin City Construction 3900 Pine Hill Rd. for the 2015 7th Avenue reconstruction project in the amount of \$347,777.39.
5. Approval of the low bid from Martin and Company PO Box 443 Oregon, IL. for the 2016 7th Avenue reconstruction project in the amount of \$104,874.
6. Approve at the request of the Finance/Insurance Committee the 2015-2016 renewal with the IPBC (Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative) for Employee Health and Dental Insurance through the NIHII (Northern Illinois Health Insurance Initiative) Sub-Pool. The agreement will incur a 4.8% increase for health care, and .04% increase for dental coverage.
7. Approve at the request of the Finance/Insurance Committee the renewal of W/C, Property, Liability and Cyber Insurance Coverage with MICA (Municipal Insurance Cooperative Agency) at a total cost of \$373,965 for the 2015-2016 Plan year.
8. Acceptance of the low bid from, and authorize signing of the 2015-2016 lawn maintenance contract with Williams Lawn Care - 405 West 20th Street Rock Falls, IL 61071.
9. Approval of the amendment to annexation agreement for the installation of force main to connect to sanitary sewer pending revisions from the City Attorney for the Crystal Lake Campground.

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Folsom to approve the Consent Agenda by omnibus designation with corrections.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert presented a summary of the balanced budget to the Council. Adm. Blackert noted that the revenue increase indicated was due to a change in accounting, and motor fuel tax dollars are now shown in the General Fund. The affected year also had extra FAU funds for the Dixon Avenue project. Finance Chairman Glen Kuhlemier stated the Aldermen present at the Finance meetings went through the budget line by line, and it looks to be in good condition. Mr. Kuhlemier stated that the City has been through rough patches before, and we can cope if the State budget cuts come to the City. Alderman Hand stated that the City struggles to keep a balanced budget, and he thanks all of the work that goes into the budget. Mayor Wescott spoke about the LGDF funding being held by the State, and thanked everyone who participated in the budget discussions. A motion to accept the 2015-2016 budget with corrections as presented was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

Administrator Blackert reminded the Aldermen that they will be going over Department Head Contracts at the next Council Meeting.

Department Heads:

Building Inspector Mark Searing told the Council that the prairie areas in the city will be burned off next week. The Fire Department will be there to monitor the burn. Mayor Wescott remarked on the success of the prairie areas, and the large amount of butterflies and wildlife inhabiting the prairie area. The prairie has been a success story for our city. Mr. Searing informed the Council that he has been speaking to the Illinois Extension Office concerning the storybook trail that will be installed along the recreational trail. This will be the first project like this in the State. Alderman Schuneman stated that the trail has been done mostly with volunteers, and it is amazing how much usage it gets.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Alderman Reitzel reminded residents to be careful with little ones now riding bicycles on the road.

Ward 2

Alderman Kuhlemier thanked the poll workers, and the voters. Mr. Kuhlemier also reported that he received a message from Dan Dowd, a columnist for Midwest Outdoors Magazine reporting great fishing on opening day for trout at Centennial Park.

Ward 3

Alderman Hand gave thanks to the voters, and reminded that everyone that vote counts.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott announced that at long time member of our community Linda Thurm is in the hospital in Peoria, and to keep her and her family in your prayers.

Mayor Wescott stated that the LGDF funds that go to municipalities, and counties may be reduced 50% to try to help with the State's budget problems. This would reduce local revenues by over \$600,000,000. He asks that a resolution be passed urging the State not to try to balance their budget while creating problems locally. If these cuts do happen it would be a loss of \$456,687 for the City of Rock Falls. A motion to approve Resolution 2015-2203 urging the Governor to keep the LGDF funded was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Kuhlemier.

Vote: 8 aye motion carried

Mayor Wescott announced that he will be out of town from April 12-18th, 2015 for an APPA conference. He appoints Alderman Glen Kuhlemier Mayor Pro-Tem. A motion to accept the appointment was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Reitzel.

Vote: 7 aye motion carried. Alderman Kuhlemier abstained

Mayor Wescott presented his ideas for standing committees for the next year. He urges the Council to review them, and let him know if there are changes that they would like to see, or if they would like to serve on any other committees.

Mayor Wescott read a letter to the Council describing the idea of a governance board for the City owned utilities. He mentioned that it would give the residents more voice in the decisions of their utilities. It does not reflect of anyone not doing a good job. He will be giving more information about governing boards in the future.

Eric Arduini, City Clerk