

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

June 23rd, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. June 23rd, 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Kleckler, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present. Alderman Folsom and Logan were absent.

Scholarship Award

Water superintendent Ted Padilla explained the groundwater education program to the Council. Mr. Padilla then introduced Ms. Morgan Folgers, winner of the 2015 Rock Falls Groundwater / Electric Scholarship from the Rock Falls Water and Electric Departments. Ms. Folgers was presented with a \$1000.00 check, and addressed the Council with her plans for the future.

Community Affairs

Bethany Bland thanked the City employees for all of their hard work throughout the past few weeks. She also thanked the City officials for their help with moving the Summer Splash event during the 1st Street repairs. She reported that more than 50 organizations will be attending the Summer Splash event.

Mayor Wescott stated that the City has worked with the Chamber on this and that East 2nd Street will be closed to allow for activities on both sides of the street.

Ordinance 1st Reading

1. Ordinance 2015-2216 amending Section 10-161 inoperable motor vehicle
2. Ordinance 2015-2217 amending Section 15-412 Containers required, specifications
3. Ordinance 2015-2218 amending Section 10-1 Posting Bills
4. Ordinance 2015-2219 amending Section 1-7 Class C violations
5. Ordinance 2015-2215 amending Section 16-222 Prohibited Uses – Mining

Alderman Kleckler inquired about Ordinance 2015-2216. Mr. Kleckler asked why the definition of a parking lot in section 8-766 mentioned that it was to allow people to park for a fee.

Alderman Kleckler contended that the language of ordinance 2015-2217 was too broad base, in as to who is responsible, and that he was told that the weight limit was 35lbs.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Snow to approve the first reading with the ordinances to be reviewed before the second reading.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ordinance 2nd Reading

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the Adoption of **Ordinance 2015-2220** Prevailing Wages 2015.

Attorney Reese noted that this will need to be published in the newspaper

Vote: 6 aye motion carried

1. Approve the Minutes of the June 2nd, 2015 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2015-712** Closed Session Minutes
4. Approval of Illinois Department of Natural Resources 5 year agreement - License No. 3316 to allow for a kiosk at the Rt. 40 Canal Access point.
5. Approval of the renewal of Illinois Department of Natural Resources 5 year agreement - License No. 3088 to allow for 12" storm sewer under the canal.
6. Approve the request of the University of Illinois Extension to develop a "Storybook Trail"

Alderman Schuneman explained the "Storybook Trail" to the Council.

Vote: 6 aye motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

Administrator Blackert thanked all of the Department Heads for all of their hard work recently. The Department Heads have been working through the night, and all day. Adm. Blackert states that having them doing their jobs makes her job a good thing to do. Even on the worst days, all of the Department Heads are professional.

Information / Correspondence

City Clerk Eric Arduini read two thank you cards recently received at City Hall. The first was from St. Andrews Catholic School thanking the city for their help with the Spring Carnival, The second was a thank you card from the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Department Heads

Electrical Director Dick Simon reported that during the most recent storm, the City lost 2 of its 11 circuits. One was on W 19th Street due to a tree. The second was on Shore Acres Rd. where the wind damaged many trees, and brought down four electric poles. The Electric crews worked very hard through the night, and power was restored to the residents between 6-7am.

Police Chief Nelson stated that the Police had received hundreds of calls throughout the night.

Fire Chief Cook gave a storm update. He stated that the Department answered 62 calls in the order that they were received, many times they needed to stay on scene because the conditions were hazardous. Through MABAS every Fire Department in Whiteside County had come to town to help except Albany. Our Department then sent an engine crew to help in Sublette. Chief Cook mentioned that flow testing will begin on the East side of town, and that during the testing the water may be discolored.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Alderman Daehle Reitzel thanked all of the City employees and volunteers that have worked so hard recently. He thanked Pizza Hut for delivering pizza to the crews working overnight.

Ward 2

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that recent events shows how well the community can come together and meet the needs of their neighbors.

Ward 3

Alderman Jim Schuneman thanked Wal-Mart, and the employees of the Distribution Center for all that they did, and have done in the past to help the residents of Rock Falls.

Alderman Rod Klecker thanked Larry Mills of Mills Auto Body for allowing the City to park in his lot. He also asks that when patrons are attending the events over the upcoming weekend, please be respectful to the residents who live in that area, and be careful not to block driveways or cut through yards.

Ward 4

Alderman Watts gave thanks to the City crews, and elected officials, he states that this team is second to none. He also reflected on being involved with being on the other side of an emergency recently with his job. He was impressed with the response of the Fire Chief, and Fire crews in Sterling.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott requested the approval of the re-appointment of Mr. Mark Vandersnick to the Planning Commission / Zoning Board of Appeals 4/30/2015 to 4/30/2019. A motion to approve the appointment was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts.

Viva Voce Vote, Motion Carried

Mayor Bill Wescott requested the approval of the re-appointment of Alderman Jim Schuneman, and Alderman Daehle Reitzel to the Board of Local Improvements. A motion to approve the appointment was made by Alderman Watts, and second by Alderman Snow.

Viva Voce Vote, Motion Carried

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that his report from the APPA Conference was in the packet. He cannot express enough how much the getting education and information from groups like the American Public Power Association helps the City employees and leaders do their jobs. Administrator Blackert and Mayor Wescott are the 3rd and 4th recipients of the Public Power Governance Certificates from the APPA.

Mayor Wescott encourages everyone to support Summer Splash and the Rock Falls River Chase events along the riverfront this weekend.

Mayor Wescott made an address to the residents of the City of Rock Falls explaining the events of June 15th, 2015. Heavy rainfall had infiltrated the sanitary sewer system, and overwhelmed the Wastewater Main Pump Station. The City water supply was shut down to allow the flooded pump station to be pumped out, and the pump motors to be put back on line.

Mayor Wescott also explained that on Friday June 19th a 24" main sanitary sewer line became blocked. The Sewer department attempted to jet out the line, but the jetter head became stuck. A 20 foot sinkhole opened up at the area under West 1st Street. The department has been bypass pumping. There will need to be lots of construction equipment in the area, Civil Constructors will be digging down to the sewer main to find out how much has collapsed. It could be 100 feet long of collapsed pipe, or 306 feet of bad sewer main. Mayor Wescott urges residents if they have questions to please call City Hall and speak to him. Mayor Wescott stated that normally there would be a bid process for a project this large, but due to this being an

the repairs at east First Street as soon as we have an estimate. Until the repair is complete the bypass pumps will be running 24 hours a day.

Alderman Kleckler asked where we are considering stopping this project, and what is the cost range.

Mayor Wescott explained that we won't know the scope of the project until the Civil exposes the line. The line will then have a camera inserted to show how much of it needs to be replaced, or repaired.

Administer Blackert explained that emergencies like this is why the City has reserve funds for the departments rather than having to bond out, or take a loan for the repairs. Adm. Blackert explained that it is more cost effective to dig once if more repairs are needed than to bring equipment back to the same area. A motion to approve an emergency work order with Civil Constructors was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Kuhlemier.

Vote 5aye, motion carried

Mayor Wescott announced that he will be calling for a special City Council meeting soon to review an amended redevelopment agreement and other items concerning financing with the hotel at the RBW District

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Watts, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn at 7:40pm.

Vote: 6 aye motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk