

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

October 6th, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. October 6th, 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, Folsom, and Watts. Aldermen Logan was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present. Mayor Wescott mentioned that Alderman Logan is currently in the hospital.

Proclamations:

A proclamation for Public Power Week was read aloud by City Clerk Eric Arduini. A motion to approve the proclamation was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Watts.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A proclamation for Fire Prevention Week was read aloud by City Clerk Eric Arduini. A motion to approve the proclamation was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Community Affairs:

Bethany Bland, President and CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce reminded the Council about the "Breakfast with the Board" event on October 7th at 9:00am.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented by omnibus designation by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Watts.

1. Approve the Minutes of the September 15th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the recommendation from the Public Works Committee to allow the City Engineers to put out bids for the Well #7 project.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinances Second Reading / Adoption

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Reitzel for the adoption of **Ordinance 2015-2240** - Authorizing the City of Rock Falls to borrow funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert explained that the City's Investment Policy had not been updated since 2000. City Attorney Jim Reese further explained that the FDIC amount has changed over the years, and the new policy deals with the correct collateralization of the deposits above the FDIC maximum. Mayor Wescott explained that the City had already been depositing the City's funds in the correct manner, and the investment policy needs to be updated to match what the city has already been doing.

A motion to approve **Resolution 2015-716** Approval of Investment Policy was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Folsom.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert presented a quote from Wilkins Tree Service in the amount of \$9600.00 for removal of the trees along the riverfront from the access road east to the former Celletti property. Alderman Klecker questioned which account the expenditure would come from as well as whose property the trees are on. He asked why it was not put out for bid to local tree cutters. A motion to approve the contract with Wilkins Tree Service 10276 Lyman Rd. Erie IL. for removal of trees and shrubs along the riverfront in the amount of \$9600.00 was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman.

Vote 5 aye, 1 Nay (Klecker) 1 Recusal (Reitzel), motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that the State of Illinois has been holding back the money that is due to the City for video gaming revenue, use tax, and motor fuel tax. Adm. Blackert showed a spreadsheet illustrating two scenarios, if the current amounts of receipts are withheld from the City, and if all appropriated money due to the City is withheld by the state. Adm. Blackert explained that the City has a fund balance policy, and maintains reserves for emergencies. If the City is forced to borrow from the reserves of the enterprise funds, the City will be required to pay them back. Alderman Kleckler inquired about taking legal action against the state. Mayor Wescott stated that the Illinois Municipal League is working with the State of Illinois, and will hopefully get notice out to the municipalities if more cuts are coming, or if there will be any class action lawsuit. The City administration will keep everyone informed as this goes along. Alderman Kuhlemier spoke of the long term effects on bonds backed by the good faith and credit of the now withheld MFT revenues.

Administrator Blackert told the Council that due to new state regulations for pensions, the City will be required to nearly double the amount of pension payments this year. A truth in taxation hearing will be held in the future to increase the tax levy above five percent.

Information/Correspondence:

City Clerk Eric Arduini announced that the City received information from the IDNR that as part of the settlement for a previous fish kill, the State will be installing flathead catfish spawning beds in the Rock River near Swards Park.

City Engineer Brian Frickenstein stated that the contractor is still looking at the second or third week in October for beginning the paving of 7th Avenue.

Department Heads:

Fire Chief Gary Cook informed the Council that during Fire Prevention Week the Fire Department will be having programs at the elementary schools. Chief Cook gave many fire injury statistics to the Council.

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla explained that a fire hydrant needs to be replaced at the corner of East 17th Street and Industrial Park Road. Due to the high water table in the area, dewatering will need to be done to make the repair. A motion to approve the quote from Griffin Dewatering Midwest LLC 3450 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN not to exceed \$17,000 was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Watts.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Superintendent Padilla thanked the Street Department, and the Wastewater Department for their help with a stop box, and service repair on First Avenue.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Alderman Daehle Reitzel reminded the Aldermen to get their street and sidewalk lists in to Administrator Blackert for the 2016 street repair schedule. Alderman Reitzel thanked Brian Tribley for the great job painting downtown.

Ward 2

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the IML meeting. He has written a report of the sessions that he had attended.

Alderman Brian Snow also thanked the Firehouse Ministries for everything they have done for the City.

Ward 3

Alderman Jim Schuneman wished Alderman Logan a speedy recovery.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott invited the Council to a Blackhawk Hills Economic Summit on October 30th in Lanark. Mayor Wescott thanked the residents for passing the half cent sales tax increase for roads and sidewalks. With the cuts from the state, it will help the city fix roads as funds are available.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 7:37pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried


Eric Arduini, City Clerk