

CITY OF ROCK FALLS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, May 24, 2010 – 6:30pm
Minutes

Those present at the meeting were as follows: Mayor David Blanton, Aldermen Mark Vandersnick, Brian Snow, Dave Hand, Daehle Reitzel, Lee Folsom, and Richard Downey – City Administrator, Mark Searing – Building Inspector and Sylvia Frey – secretary.

Members Absent: Aldermen Jim Schuneman, Bob Thurm and Glen Kuhlemier, and Chief Mike Kuelper

Administrative Hearing Officer Discussion: Mayor Blanton asked Mark Searing to present this information. Mark stated that the State Attorney's office will no longer be prosecuting ordinance tickets for municipalities. Based on this change, over the past 3 years the Building Departments and Police Departments for Sterling, Dixon and Rock Falls have been researching and developing a plan to implement a combined hearing process. Several area municipalities have been researched along with various software companies have been contacted for price quotes for this process. Each member was given a packet which included information on Administrative Adjudication (consultants-Ancel Glink) along with a proposal from MSI; whereas, cost would be divided between Dixon, Sterling and Rock Falls.

The cities would be working with an outside contracting firm who will maintain all records of these tickets as they are paid or appealed. Inputting would be made by designated individual from each city on a daily basis, then contracting firm would initiate any paperwork to complete the process. Payments would be made at the Police Department(ordinance) or Building Department (weeds/grass) for each respective ticket. If payments are not made or ticket is appealed, hearings for these would be held in Sterling at this time. The cities would have to hire an authorized court official to administer these hearings and all cities are working on finding this person.

In consideration of the cost for implementing and maintaining this process in the future, Mayor Blanton asked the members to consider reviewing all ordinance fees which need to be increased in the near future.

Mark mentioned that in order to continue with this process, several ordinances would have to be adopted to accommodate the various legal issues involved. He asked the members for a general consensus towards the approval of this proposal as presented. Members felt, due to the circumstances of the State Attorney's office canceling these hearings, our cities need to implement this type of hearing process. Members were in agreement to proceed with establishing this administrative hearing process and presenting required ordinances for council members approval in the upcoming months.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor David H. Blanton