

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF  
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS  
February 2, 2010

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at the hour of 6:30 p.m., in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David H. Blanton.

City Clerk, William B. Wescott, called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. Upon roll call, Mayor Blanton, Alderman Thurm, Folsom, Hand, Schuneman, Kuhlemier, Snow, Reitzel and Vandersnick were present, quorum. In addition, City Administrator Richard Downey and City Attorney, Jim Reese were present.

Community Affairs:

- Mr. Jack Spencer, Chairman of the Riverfront Development Committee addressed the Council in regards to the name the Riverfront contest which concluded on January 31, 2010. Originally, (89) names were submitted for consideration which was reduced to (3); Bridgeview Commons, "R" Park and (RB&W) Riverside Bike & Walk District. A total of 20,547 votes were cast during the voting. The winning entry is (RB&W) Riverside Bike & Walk District. Mr. Spencer informed the Council that signage will be developed to identify the area and serve as a magnet for possible developers in the future.
- Mr. Doug Wiersema, President/CEO, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce shared upcoming dates and activities with the Council. On Monday, February 8, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Rock Falls Holiday Inn, the Chamber will host its Annual Chamber Dinner.

Special Report: Finance Chairman Glen Kuhlemier:

Mr. Kuhlemier reported to the Council on discussions and recommendations of the Finance/Insurance/Investment Committee coming out of their January 26, 2010 meeting. The upcoming fiscal year of 2010-2011 is going to be very challenging for the General Fund Departments. The projected revenue for the year is \$4,749,210.00 while the expenditures are projected at \$5,794,167.00. Utilizing a carry over of \$362,322.00 the City is facing a \$637,635.00 deficit in the General Fund. The primary reduction in funding is from the reduced revenues expected; that the City receives from the following: Property Tax (-15%), Sales Tax (-8%), Income Tax (-15%).

In order to offset these projected shortfalls the Council will need to review all of the General Fund budgets and look for additional areas that can be reduced, and review other revenue sources and give consideration to areas that can be increased without affect property taxes. To that end, the Finance Committee is recommending to the Council that the following (3) revenue sources be increased for the coming year. Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax, currently at 5% increase to 6%; Natural Gas Utility Tax,

currently at 3% increase to 5% and Capital Cost Recovery currently at 6/10<sup>th</sup> cents (0.60 cents) net per kilowatt hour increase to 7/10<sup>th</sup> cents (0.70 cents) net per kilowatt hour.

In addition, various permit fees and business licenses are being reviewed and recommendations will be made to increase many of those as well. The permit and license fees have not undergone increases in 5-7 years. In lieu of all of these suggested actions, the budget will not be balanced. The Council, Departments and the citizens will have to work together to resolve this current situation to continue the services that they have come to expect in our Community. However, there also needs to be a realization that in some instances we may have to do less in the way of services. Chairman Kuhlemier invited the Council members to attend the Finance meetings and participate in the process.

**Ordinance/First Reading:**

1. Ordinance 2010-2380; SIMPLIFIED MUNICIPAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX RATE CHANGE
2. Ordinance 2010-2381; ELECTRIC RATE ORDINANCE

Motion: Ald. Kuhlemier, Second: Snow to accept the Ordinances as presented for first reading. Vote: (8) ayes, motion carried.

**Ordinances/Adoption:**

1. Ordinance 2010-2379; ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS TO AUTHORIZE THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGENCY TO AOPERATE AS A CURTAILMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS WITH RESPECT TO BEHIND THE METER GENERATION OF THE CITY AND OFFER SUCH OPERATION INTO PJM MARKETS.

Motion: Ald. Hand, Second: Ald. Reitzel to accept the Ordinance as presented for adoption. Vote: (8) ayes, motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2010-2382; AN AMENDMENT TO AN ORDINACE ESTABLISHING AS ENTERPRISE ZONE WITHIN THE ILLINOIS COUNTIES OF WHITESIDE AND CARROLL.

Motion: Ald. Kuhlemier, Second: Ald. Snow, to accept the Ordinance as presented for adoption. Vote (8) ayes, motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve the minutes from January 19, 2010
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Approve at the recommendation of the Public Property Committee for a change order for \$30,000.00 to RAMSCO, St. Charles, Illinois for additional asbestos abatement at the Reliant Property site in the sub roofing area.

Motion: Ald. Hand, Second: Ald. Folsom to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vote: (8) ayes, motion carried.

**City Administrator Report:**

- Mr. Downey, reported to the Council on the following awards to the City:

1. At the recent meeting of the Illinois Housing Development Authority in Chicago, the City of Rock Falls received the award of the following grants for the coming year.; SFOOR- \$370,000 and SRRP- \$129,992. There were only (6) SRRP grants awarded throughout the entire state. In the near future on of the individuals that were helped with this program will be recognized in the IDA Magazine.
2. In addition to the above grant awards, the City of Rock Falls also was the recipient of \$74,333.00 through the Mobility and Rehabilitation Services (MARS) grant program designed to provide assistance to residents with restricted mobility issues in the homes. This money will assist (2) residence in Rock Falls.

#### Information/Correspondence:

- City Clerk Wescott informed the Council of the resignation of Tom Meyers from the Police/Fire Commission effective January 25, 2010 , as well as, the resignation of Judy Kohl from the City Customer Service Center effective June 30, 2010 The Council accepted both resignations with regret and acknowledgement of faithful and dedicated service to the City.
- City Attorney Jim Reese presented Resolution 2010-570 to the Council for passage. The Resolution will authorize the extension of time to May 1, 2010 for a previously entered into escrow agreement between the City and Frank and Jeri Fritz of 809 Garfield Street, Rock Falls, Illinois to certain real estate located at 226 Avenue E, Rock Falls, Illinois.  
Motion: Ald. Snow, Second: Ald. Vandersnick to approve Resolution as presented. Vote: (8) ayes, motion carried.

#### Department Heads:

- Fire Chief J. W. Larson presented an request to authorize the purchase of 10 units of Cairns RSX Turnout Gear @ \$1,695.00 each for a total of \$16,950.00 from the Illinois Fire Store, Inc. of Amboy, Illinois. This was a budget item for 2009-2010. The purchase will replace gear that is 7-8 years old. Normal replacement occurs at about the 5 year mark, as required by NFPA and OSHA standards.  
Motion: Ald. Snow, Second: Ald. Thurm to authorize the purchase as presented.  
Vote: (8) ayes, motion passed.

#### Ward Reports:

- Mr. Kuhlemier reported to the Council that on or about July 23-24-25 and 26<sup>th</sup> this year, the Whiteside County Airport is going to be the staging area for 42 DC-3 and C-47 aircraft prior to there flying in formation to the EAA Air Venture Oshkosh 2010 on Monday, July 26 during the mid-afternoon. This "Last Time Flight" is expected to draw Media and visitors to our area during there stay in our community. Fewer than 100 of the aircraft remain in airworthy status in the United States, as a result it is anticipated that large crowds will be coming into the community. In that anticipation, Sunday, July 25, 2010 has been identified as Media Day from 8am -6pm.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Blanton requested Council action on the following appointments:

1. Appointment of Ald. Jim Schuneman and Ald. Brian Snow to the Board of Local Improvement. Motion: Ald. Vandernick, Second: Reitzel to approve the appointment. Vote: (8) ayes, motion carried.
2. Appointment of Eric Arduini to the Board of Police/Fire Commissioners with a term of 01-28-2010 to 06-30-2010 to replace Thomas Myers who has moved out of the City limits. Motion: Ald. Thurm, Second: Ald. Hand to approve the appointment. Vote: (8) ayes, motion carried.
3. Appointment of Mike Maxwell to the ADA Committee to replace Mike Mohr. Motion: Ald. Kuhlemier, Second: Ald. Snow to approve appointment. Vote: (8) ayes, motion approved.

Adjournment:

With no other business scheduled to come before the Council, Mayor Blanton request a motion for adjournment. Motion; Ald. Folsom, Second: Ald. Reitzel. Vote (8) ayes, motion carried. (7:13 p.m.)

Minutes will be approved at the February 16, 2010 meeting of the Council.

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk