

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
November 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on November 6, 2012 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David Blanton, City Clerk, William Wescott, called the roll following the pledge of allegiance, present was Ald. Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Snow, Schuneman, Hand and Watts. In addition, City Attorney Jim Reese and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

New Employees

Chief J. W. Larson introduced the four (4) new paid-on-call members of the Department to the City Council, David Jones, Kyle Pletsch, Brandon Lewis and Daniel Surdez. The four new members are going through training at this time.

Audience Request:

Mayor Blanton and the council recognized Mr. Bob Smeltzer with a plaque for his long time service to the City of Rock Falls as a member of the Police-Fire Commission. Mr. Smeltzer thanked the Council for its considerations and his recognition, it was deeply appreciated.

Community Affairs:

Adm. Blackert who serves on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce presented the Council with information concerning the upcoming Hometown Holidays November 15-17 and encouraged the residents to participate in the activities that have been planned.

Ordinance: 1st Reading

1. 2012 – 2084; Ordinance amending Section 15-291. Connection; application; certificate of wiring compliance.
2. 2012 – 2085: Ordinance creating ARTICLE IX.5. – MU-1MIXED USE DISTRICTS

Motion: Ald. Vandersnick; Second: Ald. Snow to approve both ordinances for first reading as presented. Vote: (7) Aye, motion carried.

Ordinance: Adoption

1. 2012 – 2081; Ordinance amending Section 9-152. Prohibited areas between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Motion: Ald. Kuhlemier; Second: Ald. Vandersnick to approve the ordinance as presented for final reading/adoption. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.
2. 2012 – 2082; Ordinance amending Section 9-84. Stop intersections designated.
Motion: Ald. Snow; Second: Ald. Vandersnick to approve the ordinance as presented for final reading/adoption. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.
3. 2012 – 2083; Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Real Estate- 812 Avenue A, Rock Falls, Whiteside County, Il.
Motion: Ald. Vandersnick; Second: Ald. Watts to approve the ordinance as presented for final reading /adoption. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2012
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Approve at the recommendation of the Personnel Committee a new Municipal Policy: Social Media Use and Participation by Employees
4. Approve at the recommendation of the Ordinance/License Committee a new Order of Business Policy in regards to Planning and Zoning Public Hearings.

5. Approve at the request of the Public Works Committee Engineer's Payment Estimate #7 (BLR 13230) to Northwest Illinois Construction Company, Rock Falls, Illinois in the amount of \$95,578.43 for the East 2nd Street/Avenue A Project.
6. Approve at the request of the Public Works Committee Approval of Change in Plans #5 (BLR 13210); East 2nd Street/Avenue A Project.
7. Approve at the request of the Public Works Committee the acceptance of the low bid submitted October 18, 2012; by Fischer Excavating, Inc. of Freeport, Illinois for the Dog Pound Lift Station Replacement Project (re-bid) at a cost of \$698,960.00.
8. Approve at the request of the Electric Department the purchase of a coupling for the repairs at the Hydro Electric Unit #1 in an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 from Motion Industries, Davenport, Iowa.

Motion: Ald. Hand; Second: Ald. Schuneman to accept the consent agenda as presented for approval. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.

City Administrator:

Adm. Blackert addressed the Mayor and Council on the following information:

1. Emerald Ash Borer – The City is currently mapping and cataloging the Ash trees that are on City property which consists of our municipal complex, properties owned by the City, as well as, all right-of-ways of the City. Following these actions, a report on the information gathered as well as, multiple proposals that the City will need to review and choose for the appropriate course of action. The Illinois Department of Agriculture is involved in planning a "Community Awareness Program" that will bring attention to the problems with EAB in the Community.
2. Deputy Chief Cook Contract Extension – Request that actions be taken to extend the current contract between the City of Rock Falls and Sterling for the Fire Chief. The current contract for the joint services expires on December 31, 2012. The employment contract with Deputy Chief Cook and the city runs until April 30, 2013. Adm. Blackert requests the Council approve the necessary steps to extend the intergovernmental agreement until April 30, 2013. **Motion :Ald. Hand; Second: Ald. Vandersnick to direct the City Attorney to draft the necessary documents to present to the City of Sterling for the extension of the Agreement for sharing of Deputy Chief Cook to run until April 30, 2013. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.**
3. Report on the Fire Consolidation Report – Adm. Blackert presented a Summary of Study and outlined the Recommendations to be pursued by the City of Rock Falls. This information was a result of an Evaluation of Fire and EMS Consolidation for the Cities of Sterling and Rock Falls and CGH Medical Center completed by Matrix Consulting Group. The study was broken down into two (2) separate studies. The first, addressed the feasibility of consolidation of the two (2) fire departments and EMS; the second, analyzed the feasibility of consolidation of the two (2) fire departments only.

In regards to the first, the data comes to a very clear final recommendation of NOT consolidating the Fire/EMS agencies. The information presented in the second part of the study concerning full fire consolidation is the same, the cost savings overall due not support a full fire consolidation. However, the

report did stress in numerous instances that the sharing of the Rock Falls Deputy Chief serving as the Fire Chief in Sterling allows for cost savings between the two communities and has shown to be an effective measure in shared services between the cities. In addition, it has also been a positive step in moving the operations of both agencies to function more as a single response force.

As a result of the study, the following recommendations were recommended to be pursued.

- a. Additional Administrative Consolidations
- b. Consolidation of Fire Prevention
- c. Development of a single standard operating procedure
- d. Development of a formal Apparatus Plan for purchasing and Replacing Fire Apparatus.

In pursuing the recommendations as set forth in the study, it is recommend that Rock Falls continue to be the “host community”, which includes employing the personnel and handling all administrative task associated with their employment. Adm. Blackert added that she would like to see the role of the “host community” expanded to include overseeing the consolidation of the apparatus purchasing procedures, fire prevention/investigation and development of the standard operating procedures.

Adm. Blackert asked for a motion to allow her to proceed with the discussions with the City of Sterling to establish a committee and guidelines for the work that has been identified, stressing that any decisions for approval will come back to the City Council. **Motion: Ald. Reitzel; Second: Ald. Snow to proceed with the establishment of the administrative team led by Adm. Blackert to work on the recommendations as outlined. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.**

4. Approval for necessary purchases for repairs at Hydro Plant- Adm. Blackert made the Council aware, that some of the parts required for the repairs being made at the hydro plant have to be shipped over from Germany. As a result, we are working with costs for items which require conversions from the dollar to euros. To keep the project moving along, she requests the Council permit her to get approval for the ordering of parts through the Chairman of the Electric Committee or Chairman of the Finance Committee to avoid unnecessary delays in parts being ordered. **Motion: Ald. Reitzel; Second: Ald. Snow to authorize the two (2) chairmen to approve parts ordered from overseas providers. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried.**

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Blanton reported on the following:

1. Reminded everyone of the City Christmas Party –December 8th at Long Shots
2. Special Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Park November 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

With no other business to come before the Council, Mayor Blanton called for adjournment. **Motion: Ald. Watts; Second: Ald. Reitzel to adjourn. Vote: (7) Ayes, motion carried. (7:21 p.m.)**

