

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
April 5, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at the hour of 6:30 p.m., April 5, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor Edward M. Mulvaney.

Deputy City Clerk, Michelle Conklin, called the roll, present were Mayor Mulvaney, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton. Alderman Straub and Charnas being absent.

Deputy Clerk Michelle Conklin presented a letter from CGH Emergency Services thanking the Rock Falls Fire Department for their assistance at a medical call.

Deputy Clerk Michelle Conklin presented a News Release from the Illinois Department of Public Health, congratulating the water supply operators for their diligence in maintaining optimum fluoride levels for the benefit of the public.

Mayor Mulvaney presented a letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the upcoming Illinois Great Rivers Ride, to be held on September 11, 2005. This is a bike excursion that will start in Rockford and will be passing through Rock Falls.

Mayor Mulvaney presented a letter from Rock Falls, Iowa, inviting the Council Members to attend their 150th Anniversary Celebration on August 20, 2005.

John Shepard from St. Andrews Church addressed the City Council regarding the St. Andrews Spring Festival. They are requesting the closing of Avenue A between 2nd Avenue and 4th Street, the city parking lot between 3rd Avenue and 4th Street off of Avenue A and the city parking lot on 1st Street and 1st Avenue. The carnival will be set up on Avenue A and the beer tent will be set up in the 1st Street parking lot, this will separate the family entertainment and the adult entertainment areas. This request would be in effect from Friday, May 13th, 2005 through Monday, May 23rd, 2005.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Hand to approve the closures for the St. Andrews Spring Festival. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

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Richard Willhite, addressed the City Council about his water bills. He stated that there has been many new taxes added to the bills, and he is concerned that they are too high and that there will be other people that will not be able to afford to pay them. City Administrator, Richard Downey explained to Mr. Willhite what each of the charges were for water, sewer and electric. Mr. Willhite stated that now that he has an explanation of what these charges are for, the bills make more sense to him.

Richard Willhite also thanked the Police Department for their great job at Richard Harvey's funeral.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Searing to table the ordinance repealing Section 15-26, and have the City Attorney draft an ordinance changing the wording of the section instead of repealing it. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

Amendment to Section 5-353 - Height Regulations, Section 16-263 - Off street parking screening and landscaping, Section 16-264 - Screening and Section 16-265 - Churches and eleemosynary institutions, Amendment to Section 15-428 (f) Temporary Dumpster Permit Fee, Amendment to Section 16-305 (f)(7) - adding State of Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations and Section 15-107 - Bulk Water will be sent to the April 19, 2005 Council Meeting for second reading.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 5 with correction to the minutes being made on page 2 changing 1997 to 1994 and on page 4 that Willett, Hofmann and Associates would be paid for equal time spent for comparable reports.

1. Approval of Minutes from March 15, 2005
2. Approval of Bills as printed (Attachment A)
3. Raffle License for Rock Falls Optimist Club
4. Raffle License for Lincoln Land American Red Cross
5. IHDA Program - Mortgage Release 308 6th Avenue

Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

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Pete Whiting, Building Inspector stated that there are six homes under construction and there are more people asking about lots. This is good news for the City. Also the property maintenance issues are moving slowly. Mr. Whiting has contacted the property owners for the Outdoor World property but has not been contacted by them. The canopy on one of the buildings is causing a hazard to an adjacent residential property. Mayor Mulvaney stated that there has been ongoing contact with the owners of this property for years, but there has never been any response.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Searing to take legal action against the property owners of Outdoor World, all information on the property is to be sent to Attorney Reese to start the proceedings. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Mulvaney stated that there is a sign company in town that have not been getting permits, or waiting until they are caught being in violation before they come in to get the permit. This has been an ongoing problem with this company for many months and something needs to be done to correct this problem.

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Stachowiak to have Pete Whiting send all the information of the ordinance violation to Attorney Reese, he will send the company Ordinance Violation Notices, and if this does not correct the problem, the City could revoke their business license. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

Paul Jakubczak, Electrical Director informed the Council that they were completing some projects and running underground electrical lines to the asphalt plant in order to take down the overhead lines. He also would like to purchase inventory items from Hughes Supply at a cost not to exceed \$6,800.00.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Folsom to approve the purchase of inventory items for the electric department from Hughes Supply at a cost not to exceed \$6,800.00. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

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J.W. Larson, Fire Chief informed the City Council that he was getting information together regarding flashing warning lights for 7th Avenue and Route 30, and as soon as all of the information was together he would bring it back to the City Council.

Ted Padilla, Water Department Superintendent, stated that Well #4 was back on line and pumping an additional 200 gallons per minute, and the SCASA system has been updated.

Jim White, Street Superintendent informed the Council that the street department has been sweeping streets, filling pot holes and getting ready for the mowing season coming up.

Ed Cox, Wastewater Superintendent, stated that they were going to be starting the catch basin repairs and replacements and working on finishing up a sewer extension. Mr. Cox also wanted the Council to be aware that the Wastewater Department had purchased a used vehicle to carry all of their cameras and equipment.

City Administrator Richard Downey informed the City Council that there was a "snow bird" policy for the utilities that is not in written form. If a resident leaves town over the winter months, they are allowed to shut off all or some of their utilities. Mr. Downey would like the council to either remove the policy, or have it put into ordinance form.

A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Searing to refer the "Snow bird" policy to the Public Utilities Committee for review and clarification. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Downey also stated that if a landlord in town has a rental property that is vacant, they have the water shut off but leave the electric on. They are not getting charged for any water or sewer services. The ordinance states that they may have all services shut off or leave all services on, are we going to follow the ordinances or make changes to the ordinance to allow for the unbundling of utilities.

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A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Searing to follow the ordinances as written, there will be no unbundling of the utilities. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried.

Christian Tscheschlok, Executive Director Rock Falls Community Development Corporation, reviewed with the City Council the packet of information that he had distributed to them. This information included projects and activities, a memo on the 2005 Springfield Legislative Issues Trip and a memo regarding the Site Locator's Top 10 Considerations on Successful Attraction. Mr. Tscheschlok informed the City Council that he would be attending only one Council Meeting per month in the future, and if any of the Council members had any questions or comments that they should feel free to contact him about it. Mr. Tscheschlok also thanked Mayor Mulvaney for his involvement in getting the Fellowship Program started in the City of Rock Falls.

Doug Wiersema, president and CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, introduced himself to the City Council.

Alderman Searing announced a Personnel Committee Meeting to be held on April 12, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

Alderman Kuhlemier announced a Finance Committee Meeting to be held on April 7, 2005 at 6:30 p.m., and also made a slight change to the last Finance Committee Minutes.

Alderman Hand announced an Ordinance Committee Meeting to be held on April 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Mulvaney stated that there was a property owner inquiring about extending the City of Rock Falls Electric service to his property. The property is contiguous to the City of Rock Falls, and there should be a requirement that this property owner annex into the City before the electric is extended to his property.

Mayor Mulvaney also stated that the CPR Certifications have expired and until these are renewed there will be no confined space digs.

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A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Stachowiak to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Personnel Matters - Section 2 (c)(1), Threatened/Pending Litigation - Section 2 (c)(11) and Collective Bargaining Matters - Section 2 (c)(2). Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried. (7:55 p.m.)

A motion was made by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Stachowiak to return to regular session. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried. (8:20 p.m.)

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Searing to adjourn. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote: 6 aye. Motion carried. (8:26 p.m.)

Michelle K. Conklin, Deputy Clerk