

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF  
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS  
AUGUST 2, 2005**

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., August 2, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David H. Blanton.

City Clerk, William Wescott called roll, Mayor Blanton, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm being present.

Audience Requests:

Ms. Allison Neil, Attorney for Mr. Ron Halgren addressed the Council. The City of Rock Falls has filed charges against Mr. Halgren for numerous Ordinance violations. Ms. Neil requested if possible, that the City of Rock Falls excuse all of the outstanding past due utility charges currently due by Mr. Halgren. She went onto inform the Council that she has assisted Mr. Halgren in contact local Veterans Assistance Programs, Tri-County Opportunities and United Way of Whiteside County seeking financial assistance to help clear up the outstanding debts. However, all of the agencies have the same policy in regards to assistance, which is to provide assistance with future bills as is possible, but not bills already incurred. Following her brief comments, she thanked the Council for there time.

Executive Session:

Motion made by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Snow to enter into executive session and include Attorney Tom Sanders of Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson and Mr. Pete Whiting, City Building Inspector for the purpose of:

1. Probable or Imminent Litigation – Section 2 (c )(11)
2. Probable or Imminent Litigation – Section 2 (c )(11)
3. Probable or Imminent Litigation – Section 2 (c ) (11)
4. Purchase or Lease of Real Estate – Section 2 (c )(6)

Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried. (6:35 p.m.)

Motion made by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Thurm to return to regular session. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye, Vote 8 ayes, motion carried. (7:12 p.m.)

Community Affairs:

Gayla Kolb of the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation spoke to the Council concerning several issues that the RFCDC is currently working on:

1. Reviewing the Business Strategic Plan
2. Work still in progress on the I-88 corridor study.
3. Grocery Store, (2) prospects
4. Site Referral from DCEO
5. River Front –Project

Doug Wiersema, CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council members on several items:

1. Wednesday Breakfast, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Red Apple Restaurant, 7:30 a.m.
2. Golf Outing, Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 12:30 p.m.
3. Ribbon Cutting, CLS Thrift Shop, 607 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Rock Falls August 11<sup>th</sup>
4. Chamber will have a booth at the Whiteside County Fair to promote Rock Falls businesses.
5. Working to change the format of the current Newsletter. Will be incorporating more tourism activities and entertainment.

Ordinances:

Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to approve the following Ordinances following second reading:

- Addition to the City of Rock Falls Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook – Workplace Violence Policy
- Amendment to Section 15-101. Deposit of Residential Customers
- Amendment to Section 5-126 (9) and (10) Designated (permits, fees)
- Amendment to Section 15-26. Liability

Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented:

1. Approval of Minutes from Regular Session of July 19, 2005
2. Payment of Bills as printed.

Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Department Head Reports:

Building Department – Mr. Whiting spoke to Council and requested consideration of refunding of the fees associated with petition filing, publication and mailing costs that were inadvertently required for Mr. Dan Webber. Mr. Webber had made application to the City of Rock Falls on July 1, 2005 for a rezoning request of property located at 200 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Falls, Illinois from M-2 to B-1. Following a thorough review of the zoning ordinances it was found that this request and his application were in fact not required, as the property could be utilized as is zoned for the business (beauty salon) that he wanted to initiate at that location. The total itemized costs were \$155.38. Motion made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Thurm to reimburse Mr. Webber the full amount of \$155.38, for the costs he had incurred. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Electric Department – Mr. Jakubczak informed the Council that we are still running the generators periodically at the request of the IEMA. Our current operations represent the longest amount of time that we have run the system however, since its inception. Other members of the agency are also running there generation units during this period of increased demeaned.

Street Department – Mr. White reported to the Council that his department is begining the process of striping the streets with the beginning of the school year drawing near. Additionally, we are waiting for the opportunity to rent a concrete shaver to remove the edges on some sidewalk surfaces around the Municipal Complex that are a hazard to pedestrians.

Water Department – Mr. Padilla had placed a copy of the July revenue report for his department in the Aldermen packets and commented briefly on them., stating that he is very pleased with our current position but that increases would need to be considered in the near future. He informed the Council that over the past (2) weeks to separate incidents resulted in (2) fire hydrants being broke off there bases requiring replacement. Estimated costs per hydrant including labor are \$2100.00.

Mr. Padilla reported that the bids for the proposed Waterworks Improvements: Elevated Water Storage Tank Painting and Repairs were due in by 3:00 p.m. on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following the bid opening, they bid information would go to the Public Works Committee and a recommendation would be ready for the next Council meeting scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, Mr. Padilla informned the Council the work will start in the next couple of weeks on the Avenue B - Ada Street project. Also with the selling of many homes in the Rock Falls community, there have been several new customers coming online to our water services.

#### Administrators Report:

Mr. Downey requested Council action to raise the price of bulk stickers from its current rate of \$1.00 to \$1.40 per sticker. A motion was made by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Searing to raise the bulk sticker price to \$1.40 per sticker effective 1 September 2005. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

#### Council Committee Reports/Members Requests:

Electric – Committee Meeting scheduled for August 17, 2005 6:30 p.m. at the Electric Department...

Finance/Insurance – Committee Meeting scheduled for August 15, 2005 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Ordinance/License – Committee Meeting scheduled for August 18, 2005 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Personnel/Safety - Committee Meeting scheduled for August 18, 2005 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Public Property – No Meeting scheduled

Public Works – Committee Meeting scheduled August 4, 2005 6:30 p.m. in the Street Department.

Alderman Searing, Chairman briefed the Council on a special Public Works meeting held on July 27, 2005 at which the Public Works Committee, as well as, business owners located along the Scanlon Project met to review the final engineering plans that have been submitted. Following resolve of all the issues as of this time it is the recommendation of the Public works Committee to the Council to proceed with the Scanlon Road project and set a deadline for completion as of the end of September. Motion made by Alderman Snow and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to approve the final plans as recommended by the Public Works Committee and our engineering firm of WHA. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Alderman Reports:

Mr. Kuhlemier reported to the Council on the upcoming activities relating to the Fiesta Days. The Don's Party is to be held at the Latin American Club on Saturday, August 27, 2005 with the Parade which will travel between the Cities of both Sterling and Rock Falls on September 17, 2005. He serves as one of the Co-Chairman of the events and encourages all citizens of Rock Falls and Sterling to get out and support the events.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Blanton reported to the Council that he and Mr. Kuhlemier attended the Sterling City Council meeting and welcomed Sterling Mayor Ted Aggen back to his post following and extended illness. It is good to have him back and he was told that the City of Rock Falls looks forward to a continued good working relationship between the two cities.

Mayor Blanton also told the Council that he had received a letter of thanks from the CGHMCF Foundation Committee for all that the City had done to assist in making there BIKE ride a huge success.

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Snow to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m... Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Approved: August 16, 2005

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk

