

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
JULY 19, 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., July 19, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David Blanton.

The first order of business was a Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving written or oral comments from Citizens regarding the proposed Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year commencing May 1, 2005 and ending April 30, 2005. No written or oral comments were received from the Citizens of Rock Falls. Hearing none, Mayor Blanton closed the Public Hearing.

Audience Requests:

United Way of Whiteside County sent a letter requesting permission to utilize streets in Rock Falls for there 5K race/walk scheduled for August 28, 2005. Specific streets involved, Roberts St., 12th Avenue, 14th Street, 14th Avenue and 19th Street. The event will last only approximately 1 hour. **Motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Folsom to grant permission for the event. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Joan Hermes of the CGHMC Health Foundation, Richard Coon and Jim McPherson of Edward Jones and Company were present to speak to the Council about the CGHMC Health Foundation Bike Ride scheduled for July 23rd. They were seeking permission from the Council to close Roberts Street from 11th Avenue to Flock Avenue from 0600 to 1200 on the 23rd of July to facilitate the Bike Ride. **Motion** by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to permit the road closure as requested. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Community Affairs:

Executive Director of the RFCD, Christian Tscheschlok addressed the Council in regards to several issues concerning, River Front Development, Grocery Store Project, 2005 Wage Survey Report, Whiteside County Enterprise Zone and the WEB site being developed. A projected date of September 8, 2005 is set for the release of the "WEB Marketing" site to go live on line. Access will be made via www.saukvalleydevelopment.com... More information concerning the website will follow soon.

Doug Wiersema, CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Council concerning the following upcoming events, July 21 Business After Hours at the General Distributing Store, August 5th Chamber Golf Outing and from August 16th-20th the Chamber will have a booth at the Whiteside County Fair promoting our area businesses.

Ordinances:

The following Ordinances were present for First Reading:

- Addition to the City of Rock Falls Personnel Policy and Employment Handbook-Workplace Violence Policy.
- Amendment to Section 15-101. Deposit of Residential Customers
- Amendment to Section 3-76 through Section 3-79 Certain Dogs Regulated.
- Amendment to Section 5-126 (9) and (10) Designated (permits, fees)
- Amendment to Section 15-26. Liability
- Bulk Waste Sticker Fee

Mr. Kuhlemier made a **motion** and seconded by Alderman Hand to table the Amendment to Section 3-76 through Section 3-79 Certain Dogs Regulated for further study by the City Attorney in light of the recent pit bull attack to a Sterling Resident. In addition, would like to have a letter written to our State Representatives and Senators concerning the issue of Regulation of Dogs. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**. All other Ordinances for First Reading were accepted.

Mr. Reese made a comment to the Council concerning the repeal of Amendment to Section 15-26. Liability. He reminded the Council that currently under State Statue and City Ordinance the City can place a lien against the properties of overdue water and sewer bills. By taking the action to repeal Section 15-26, the City would be placing itself in a position to possibly lose that right. Mayor Blanton so noted the comments.

Second Reading – Adoption

In lieu of no written or oral comments from the citizens regarding the proposed Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year commencing May 1, 2005 and ending April 30, 2006. A motion by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Arduini to pass the proposed Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4 as presented:

1. Approval of Minutes from Regular Session of July 5, 2005.
2. Payment of Bills as printed.
3. Proclamation, proclaiming the month of September 2005 as national Save a Life Month
4. Approval to appoint John Hoffmiller to the Police Pension Board for a two year term.

Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Department Head Reports:

Electric – Mr. Jakubczak presented a brief report on the effects of the heat and costs currently for electricity. Last month we had an increase in load of 5% over last year. In 2004 we utilized 19.2 mega/watts, this year we were at 20.8 mega/watts. The IMEA requested that the City of Rock Falls run its generation (4) units which produce approximately 30-40% of the daily load. This is the first time in 5 years since there installation that the generators have been put on line. The reason for the generation request is (2) two fold. First, problems in the spot market pricing and secondly problems experienced with other suppliers. Normally, purchased power is \$45-\$50 a megawatt, currently it is running at \$120 meg/watt. With our generation capabilities the cost is \$90 mega/watt.

Mr. Jakubczak, as Chairman of the Telecommunications Ad Hoc Committee requested permission from the Council to transfer \$225,000.00 from the Electric to the Telecommunications for start up money. He also advised the Council that the City Attorney currently is reviewing the contract for provisions of internet operations by the City. **Motion** by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Kuhlemier to approve the transfer of \$225,000.00 to the Telecommunications Accounts. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Mr. Jakubczak requested the Council to authorize the purchase of \$84,564.00 of CISCO Equipment from Global Enterprise Technology, which was low bidder as reviewed by our Telecommunications Engineer. Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Snow to approve the purchase. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.

Wastewater – Mr. Cox requested authorization for the expenditure not to exceed \$9,500.00 to Standard Equipment for repairs to the Vactor truck. Motion by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Thurm to approve expenditure with limits requested. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Cox requested approval to seek bids for repairs to the 5th Avenue Pump Station (estimated costs to be \$20,000.00 for repairs and \$5,500.00 for engineering). Motion by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Folsom to approve the bid letting. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Cox spoke to the Council concerning problems with the Sewer Line placement that has been underway from the Rock River Christian Center to the Anixter property on Anixter Rd. This project required an extension on a previous permit and has been going smoothly until recently, when they ran into ground water near the creek. The only way to complete the project in a timely fashion that is within the current permit is to bring in a dewatering company to facilitate dewatering so that the main can be placed. (5) Five companies were contacted and only (2) responded. Mr. Cox would like permission to **hire Kelly Dewatering of Wyoming, Michigan at a cost of \$13,500. Motion by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to award the job to Kelly Dewatering at the cost rendered. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.**

Information and Updates:

Mr. Brian Frickenstein , City Engineer told the Council that bids have been let for the water tower refurbishment, bid opening scheduled for August 3rd. In addition, WHA provide information to Mr. Downey for the Bike Path project thru the ITEP grant.

Mr. Frickenstein updated the Council on the status of the Scanlon Road project in the Industrial Park. It is anticipated that Mr. Scanlon's Engineers will have plans for inspection which will show drainage being facilitated by open ditches vs. wastewater lines as was originally required. This would be in line with the way the Industrial Park drainage was originally laid out. Communication between the City Engineer and Mr. Scanlon's Engineering firm has been such that we have stressed the need to have this road in place by this fall. Constant delays some of which could not be avoided but more that could have been have created constant blockage to the completion of this project. The road was to have originally been completed within (5) five years following the signing of the agreement with the City.

Mr. Bob Burger of Burger Bros. Trucking & Excavating and Mr. Cecil Young of Elevator Construction Company who both have businesses located on E. 18th Street in the Industrial Park asked to address the Council. Both expressed many concerns that this project has taken over 6 ½ years and is still not completed. They both have problems with the gravel road as it currently is in regards to dust. They were requesting that the City speak to Mr. Scanlon about some form of dust control until such time that the project is completed. A lengthy discussion continued.

A **motion** by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to give Mr. Scanlon and his Engineers until July 31st to produce the final plans for the E. 18th St. Project. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Administrators Report:

Mr. Downey briefed the Council members on the following:

1. ITEP Grant totaling \$161,000 is nearing completion, then will be presented to the Tourism Committee as it is hoped that they shall serve as the matching funds for the grant. The project has been divided into (3) phases. The grant will cover paving, signage and property acquisition.
2. Upcoming Illinois TIF Association meeting in Chicago on September 21st will be attended by Mayor Blanton, Mr. Tscheschlok and Mr. Downey.
3. Working with WHA to develop a map extending 1.5 miles outside of the City limits for the Planning and Zoning Committee and a new map outlining the Ward boundaries. These maps will eventually become part of our Web Site.

Council Committee Reports/Member Requests:

Electric – Mr. Hand announced a change in the scheduled Electric Committee meeting to August 17, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Electric Department.

Finance/Insurance – Mr. Kuhlemier addressed the Council on a couple of issues:

1. Committee is going to due public presentations as they did last year. Tentative dates are September 13-14-15 at sites to be determined.
2. Complimented the City Clerk on his presentation regarding the first 6 months of health insurance claims for the year.
3. **Next Committee meeting scheduled for August 15, 2005, 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Complex.**

Ordinance/License – Mr. Folsom brought forth several requests from committee

1. Instruct the City Attorney to draft a non-conforming use Ordinance which establishes time lines for the non conforming usage. **Motion** by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Hand to so order the drafting of Ordinance. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.
2. Instruct the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance creating a pre-treating charge for any user of the Sewer system located outside of the corporate city limits. **Motion** made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Hand to so instruct the City Attorney. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Personnel/Safety

1. **Next Committee meeting scheduled for August 18, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Complex.**

Public Works

1. **Next Committee meeting scheduled for August 4, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Street Department.**

Alderman Reports:

Alderman Kuhlemier wished to remind the citizens of the City that if signage is placed for garage or yard sales, it should be removed in a timely fashion as to not create an eye sore in the City.

Alderman Hand wanted to recognize Jim White and his crew from the Street Department for the prompt response to a problem within his ward recently.

Mayors: Report:

Mayor Blanton had several issues for the Council:

1. Mr. Blanton publicly recognized the efforts of the Louie Bellson Committee for there work in the recent Heritage Days Celebration.
2. He visited with Mayor Ted Aggen of Sterling and his recovery is progressing well. He looks forward to being back to work soon and working with the City of Rock Falls.
3. Commented on the recent Police Report that the Crime rate in our Community has declined. He commended the Police Department on the work that they are doing.

Executive Session:

Motion by Alderman Vandersnick and seconded by Alderman Folsom to enter into executive session for the purpose of Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance – Section (c)(1).

Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried (7:50 p.m.)**

Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to return to open session. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried. (8:15 p.m.)**

Motion made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to adjourn. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Approved: August 2, 2005

William B. Wescott, City Clerk

