

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
JUNE 7, 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., June 7, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David H. Blanton.

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

Audience Requests:

Ms. Wanda Schmitt and Mr. Jim Hager spoke to the Council on behalf of the Sterling-Rock Falls Toastmasters Club. They were seeking permission to place signage identifying there organizations meeting times and locations. The signage would be erected along the southeast side of 12th Avenue in the northbound lanes prior to accessing the first bridge. Following a short discussion, the Council verbally agreed to the proposal, however, **a motion** was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Searing to clear the placement of the sign with the IDOT offices. City Clerk shall direct a letter to IDOT on behalf of the City. Should there be no objections noted, Council grants its approval. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**.

Community Affairs:

Gayla Kolb representing the RFCDC spoke to the Council concerning the success of the recent ED University that was conducted by the organization. Many of the Aldermen were unable to attend, and the RFCDC would like to hear from those members as to a time which would be acceptable for another such program which they may be able to attend. Council members are to advise the RFCDC of there availability. Ms. Kolb also advised the Council of upcoming events in regards to the Louie Bellson Heritage Days Celebration scheduled for July 7, 8, 9 and 10, 2005.

Doug Wiersema, Director of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Council on several upcoming events. First, on June 27th the Council will be sponsoring an Informational meeting presented by the Illinois Department of Revenue in regards to the new City Sales Tax which begin on July 1st. The meeting will be at the Community Building beginning at 1:00 p.m... Secondly, the Quarterly Luncheon will be held on July 14th at 12:00 p.m. at the Rock River Country. The program speaker will be State Representative Jerry Mitchell speaking on happenings in Springfield this sprig and fall.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the Consent Agenda as presented items 1-8:

1. Approval of Minutes from Regular Session of May 17, 2005
2. Payment of Bills as printed
3. Authorize the Mayor and city Clerk to sign release of mortgage for Mike Sterba and Walter B. and Darla J. Stigall
4. Easement Amendment – US Cellular Site
5. Proclamation, proclaiming June 2005 as Homeownership Month
6. Ordinance adding territory to the Whiteside County Enterprise Zone.

7. Prevailing Wage Ordinance for 2005
8. Close Mayor's Discretionary Fund and transfer remaining balance (\$0.63) to the General Fund.

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 advised the Council that the final inspections of the Crowne Hill Estates Project were complete and his office and the Fire Department have issued the occupancy certificate.

Electric – Mr. Jakubczak reported to the Council that Mayor Blanton, Alderman Hand and himself would be attending the APPA Conference in Anaheim, California next week. While at the Conference he will be making a presentation on a new program RP3.

Fire Chief – J. W. Larson informed the Council that his Department had applied for and received a grant from the Illinois Rural Health Association in the amount of \$1500.00. The grant will be used to purchase another AED (automated external defibrillator) unit for the Department. This is the (3) such unit that the Fire Department has been awarded.

Street Department – Jim White advised the Council that his Department will be getting the Street Sweeper out and start cleaning up the roadways.

Wastewater Treatment – Mr. Cox told the Council that the catch basin repairs are nearing completion and that the new muffin monster should be arriving on Monday or Tuesday.

Water – Mr. Padilla briefed the Council on the Arland Street project which will result in an extension of water main from Division St. westward to Emmons Ave. . . . The Water Department is working with the Electric Department in that the main is going to be bored some 660 feet, as opposed to digging of a trench and tearing up the roadway. When completed, this will complete the loop of water services in that area.

Police Department – Chief Perez told the Council of a request from Mr. Daehle Reitzel to place a dumpster for construction purposes in the (4) four parking stalls located in front of 105 W. 2nd Street. Barricades will be placed around the dumpster as a safety measure. The request is being made, due to his inability to comply with dumpster placement in the alley way due to restricted space. **A motion** by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to approve the request as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Chief Perez also presented a request from IFES, Inc. to park a semi-trailer on 8th Avenue near Dillon School for several weeks. They will be performing environmental work at the school and the trailer houses there equipment. The request is being made to prevent non-compliance with the 48 hour parking Ordinance. **Motion** made by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Snow to approve the request. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Administrators Report:

Mr. Downey spoke to the Council about the IMAP program that is available thru Northern Illinois University, Dept. of Governmental Studies. The cost of the participation is \$2500.00. If we participated, NIU would come in and do a study on government operations and make suggestions on areas where improvement could be realized. After a short discussion, it was decided to not participate at this time; Mr. Downey will make the notification of our desire not to participate at this time.

Mr. Downey also brought the Council up to date on the preliminary time line for the Brownfield Grant. He reviewed the process that we have already taken in regards to the IEPA Brownfield Grant in regards to the hiring of an engineering firm and a consulting firm. For the USEPA Brownfield Grant, we have to go back and request proposals for engineering and consultants to do the same amount of work. As a result we will have to have another group of RFP's sent out and then when they are returned sit down and evaluate the proposals. Due to the expedient nature required to complete this process, Mr. Downey asked the Mayor if he would re-activate the previous Committee. Members serving will be Mayor Blanton, Alderman Hand, Arduini, Snow and Christian Tscheschlok (RFCDC), Mr. Downey will serve as Chairman of the Committee. He will look at the calendar and contact members with a meeting date.

Mr. Downey informed the Council that on June 14th and 15th he will be attending the Illinois Brownfield Conference in Peoria.

Information and Updates:

City Clerk Wescott informed the Council of the Rock the River Committee meeting scheduled for June 15, 2005 at 10:00 am in the Municipal Complex. Additionally he shared with the Council correspondence from Senator Todd Sieben's Office concerning an upcoming program being presented at Sauk Valley College on June 30th from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm... The program will deal with the Illinois Accessibility Guidelines and Visibility with additional conversation concerning some Grant programs. Anyone interested in attending needs to let the Clerks Office no by Friday June 17th.

Brian Frickenstein, City engineer spoke about maintenance maps that are going to be drawn that can be utilized for maintenance considerations. They are going to be using 1990 as a starting point. Additionally, he told the Council that he will be working on an application for BURP monies needed for future repairs on the Dixon Avenue Bridge. This needs to be filed with the County when complete.

The Council was updated on the Scanlon property in the Industrial Park. The project has run into a delay due to problems which have been identified with drainage in that area. More information will follow when it is available.

Council Committee Reports:

Electric – Committee Mtg. scheduled for June 8, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Finance/Insurance – Committee Mtg. scheduled for June 16th at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

The final draft of the 2005-06 budgets is complete and was presented to the Council. **A motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the budgets as presented. Upon roll call Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**.

Alderman Kuhlemier made **a motion** which was seconded by Alderman Searing to instruct the City Attorney to draft a Resolution postponing the loan payback to the Electric department as outline in previous Resolution 2003-454. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**.

Public Works – Alderman Searing made **a motion** seconded by Alderman Arduini to allow Willett, Hoffman & Associates to seek bids for sandblasting, cleaning, painting and structural modifications to the East Water Tower. Engineering estimated costs is \$125,000.00. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**.

Ordinance/License –Committee Mtg. scheduled for June 15th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

Alderman Folsom introduced a discussion concerning a possible drafting of an Ordinance requiring an electrical inspection before electrical service is provided to newly sold properties. Mr. Padilla of the Water Department voiced a desire to be able to conduct the same looking for issues pertaining to the Water services in the residence. Following a discussion an input from Mr. Reese, it was decided to end the issue back to the Ordinance Committee for further clarification prior to the drafting of any Ordinance.

Alderman Folsom made **a motion** seconded by Alderman Hand to instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to follow state code for ordinance violation special assessments. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**.

Personnel/Safety – Committee Mtg. scheduled for June 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers

Public Property – Committee Mtg. scheduled for June 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in Municipal Complex

Alderman Reports: No reports

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Blanton reported that the Building permits are up \$79,000.00 over last year at the same time. Additionally, he informed the Council that he will be attending the APPA conference from June 19-23. He requested **a motion** to name Alderman Kuhlemier, Mayor Pro-Tem in his absence. Motion made by Alderman Thurm and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Alderman Kuhlemier abstained. Vote 7 ayes, 1 abstention. **Motion carried**.

Police-Fire Committee – Committee Mtg. scheduled for June 13th at 6:30 p.m. in Municipal Complex

Executive Session:

Mayor Blanton request motion to enter into executive session, for the discussion of the fixing of a price for the purchase or lease of real property under Section 2 (C) (5). **Motion** made by Alderman Vandersnick and seconded by Alderman Thurm. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**. (7:26 p.m.)

Motion by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to return to open session. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**. (7:52 p.m.)

Motion by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Hand to adjourn. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Arduini, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried**.

William B. Wescott, City Clerk