

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

September 17th, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. September 17th, 2013 in the Council Chambers of Rock Falls by Mayor William B. Wescott.

City Clerk Eric Arduini called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present including Mayor William B. Wescott, Aldermen Vandernick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Community Affairs:

Administrator Blackert reported that the Chamber of Commerce has formed a membership committee to explain the benefits of the Chamber to businesses. October 18th will be a guest bartender night at Longshots to raise money for Hometown Holidays, which will be held on Nov. 27th 2013.

Alderman Kuhlemier commented on the Rock Falls Tourism office. He informed the council that Tim Wilson has spent a lot of time making very good contacts around town. Tim worked on Saturday helping with the Bridge the Community race, and Fiesta Day Parade.

Ordinance First Reading:

1. Approve Ordinance 2013-2123 Amendment to Sec. 10-99 Refuse collection in certain areas; hours restricted
2. Approve Ordinance 2013-2124 Amendment to Sec. 15-411 and Sec. 15-418 repealing the use of yard waste stickers, and containers for disposing yard waste
3. Approve Ordinance 2013-2130 Amendment to Sec. 15-412 Containers for Garbage Collection

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick to approve these ordinances for first reading, and second by Reitzel

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ordinance Second Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandernick, and second by Snow to adopt Ordinance 2013-2122, an amendment to Sec. 8-256 to allow for Convenience Store liquor sales. Alderman Hand stated that he has heard of convenience stores selling cigarettes to underage people, and residents thought that they may also sell alcohol to underage people as well.

**Vote 5 ayes, Aldermen Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Schuneman, and Watts - 3 Nays
Aldermen Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Vandersnick to adopt Ordinance 2013-2125, an ordinance allowing for haying within city limits. Alderman Hand informed the Council that people from the 3rd ward had complaints about the allowing of haying due to the increase of nuisance rodents such as rats and snakes. He stated that we have rules in Section 10-120 of city code that any plants exceeding 8" are a nuisance. Attorney Reese stated that we already have agricultural areas zoned rural within the city limits. Adm. Blackert stated that the intended purpose of this ordinance is for the Industrial park area, and that the Street Department can spend as many as 90 hours in a week mowing, rather than fixing roads. Mayor Wescott reminded the council that the plot has to be a minimum of 3 acres, and it would need to be approved and permitted through the building department.

**Vote 6 ayes, Aldermen Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, and Watts - 2
Nays Aldermen Hand an Folsom, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Alderman Snow to adopt Ordinance 2013-2127, allowing the authorization, and regulation of prairie grass plots within city limits. Alderman Kuhlemier, recommended that the city Fire Department be present when the burning of these plots are done. Mayor Wescott explained that in the ordinance it is stated that the plots may only be burned with a trained prairie grass personnel on site. He also explained that there are setbacks from structures in the ordinance. Mayor Wescott also reminded the Council that all of these plots will have to be approved by the city. These plots will take about 4 years to reach their full potential, and they will need to be burned every 3 years. There will be no free burning, and contrary to some phone calls that the Mayor has received, the city is not interested in cutting down trees to plant prairie grass. Inspector Searing said that this project is possible now due to the help of IDNR, Soil, and Water, and Pheasants Forever. He also stated that the cost of installing a prairie grass plot is high, and it may be prohibitive for many. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that Mr. Searing has put a lot of work into the permitting and enforcement parts of this ordinance, and we are thankful that we have such great resources on this matter already in our community such as Dave Harrison, and Tim Keller. Alderman Hand stated that tall grasses like these may add to nuisance animals. Insp. Searing stated that the type of grass to be placed in these plots are only around a foot and a half high. Alderman Reitzel stated that this will help the Street department focus on repairing streets.

**Vote 7 ayes, Aldermen Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Folsom, and
Watts - 1 Nay Alderman Hand, motion carried**

Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the September 3rd, 2013 Council Meeting
2. Approve the Minutes of the September 9th 2013 Joint Council Meeting
3. Approve the bills as presented
4. Approval of Fairview Lift Station Pay Request #3 to Sloan Electric - 1008 Illinois Ave. Mendota, Il in the amount of \$20,457.38

5. Approval of Dog Pound Lift Station Pay Request #4 to Fischer Excavating - 1567 Heine Road, Freeport, IL in the amount of \$87,142.55

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by alderman Folsom to approve the consent agenda. Clerk Arduini explained that there was one change made and a revised copy was given to the Council concerning the minutes of the 9/9/13 Joint council meeting.

Vote 8 Ayes, motion carried

Department Heads:

Fire Chief Larson told the Council that he appreciated all of the people that he has had the opportunity to work with over the years. He is also confident in the new joint Fire system. He served the RFFD for 38 years, and was chief for 25 years.

A plaque was then presented to Chief Larson by Mayor Wescott.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Alderman Daehle Reitzel spoke about the Bridge the Community Race which was held the previous Saturday. He wanted to thank Jack Spencer, and all involved in making this event a success. He stated that there may have been as much as twice the runners as expected, and this is a good thing for Sterling and Rock Falls.

Ward 2

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier stated that he attended the 100th birthday of Gertrude Puels. He commended her on not only surviving a hundred years, but also surviving her husband Allen Puels who was a 2nd Ward Alderman and building inspector for the City of Rock Falls. He also attended his 60th class reunion, and he encouraged the Council to see the new flagpole their class has installed along the "S" curve in front of the Forest Tabor Gym also in memory of Forest Tabor.

Alderman Brian Snow thanked the volunteers who helped with the Bridge the Community Race, as well as the Fiesta Parade. He said that the parade was a great success.

Ward 3

Alderman David Hand gave Kudos to the helpers for both events, and stated that this was a great opportunity for both towns.

Alderman Jim Schuneman wanted to express his disappointment in the local newspaper for their lack of coverage about the Bridge the Community 5K/10K event. He also wanted to thank all of the volunteers for their help in making these events a success.

Ward 4

Alderman John Watts informed the Council that as he was working as a volunteer during the Bridge the Community race, many of the participants thanked him for holding the event and helping. He also wanted to remind everyone that there will be a carnival in the RB&W district area celebrating St. Mary's 100th anniversary. This is another example of the riverfront bringing the communities together. He also spoke about the 2nd community meeting that was hosted at his house. He would like to remind residents that there is a process that includes committee meetings, as well as two readings of the ordinances before new ordinances are added to the municipal code. Please come to meetings to give input, and the city will look into more ways to get information out to the residents about upcoming meetings.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Wescott reported on the Bridge the Community 5K/10K race. He stated that this was a great opportunity for bringing people together, and having the Police work together to coordinate this event. He thanked Jack Spencer, and the Bridge the Community Committee which had members from both sides of the river. He stated that he was most impressed with the man who won the 10K race. The participant was 2nd or 3rd across the walk bridge. The participant told the Mayor that this was his first time here, and he can't wait to see what the event will be like next time. Mayor Wescott stated that he too heard the runners thanking all of the volunteers along the way for helping make this race possible. Mayor Wescott reiterated that all of the proceeds from the race will be shared between Sterling, and Rock Falls for future riverfront projects.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick and second by Alderman Snow to enter into executive session for Personnel Section - 2(C)(1)

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Executive session began at 7:15 p.m. and ended at 7:25 p.m.

Any actions resulting from executive Session

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the contracts for Fire Chief, Gary Cook, and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Milby.

Vote 8 aye motion carries

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom to adjourn, second by Alderman Reitzel.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried