

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

November 5th, 2013

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. November 5th, 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 Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Audience Request

Optimist Club members George Logan, Tony Poci, and Steve Mulvaney presented the council with the 2014 Rock Falls Historic Pride Calendars. Sales of these calendars provide scholarships for local youths. Mr. Logan stated that the sales provided \$12,000 in scholarships last year. Mayor Wescott added that this is the 11th year for the calendar.

Community Affairs

Administrator Blackert reported on some events that were recently held by the Chamber of Commerce. On October 18th the annual guest bartender night was held, and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Milby won the tip contest. Uptown trick or treat was held on Halloween and it was a success. Adm. Blackert also reminded the council that Hometown Holidays is coming soon.

Alderman Kuhlemier spoke on the Tourism department, and mentioned that Tim Wilson has been proactive, and is working closely with Pastor Brian Tribley from the Firehouse of God Ministries to do maintenance, painting, and cleanup along the riverfront, at the boat launch, and along the canal.

Ordinance First Reading

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick and second by Reitzel to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2013-2134 amending Rock Falls Municipal Code Section 9-147 and Section 9-148 for parking restrictions on West 2nd Street.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick and second by Snow to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2013-2135 for changes in liquor store hours.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Snow to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2013-2136 amending Rock Falls Municipal Code Section 16-360 for a technical change in the zoning ordinance.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick and second by Reitzel to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2013-2137 amending Rock Falls Municipal Code Section 13-37 for surface restoration of sidewalks.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick and second by Reitzel to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2013-2138 amending Rock Falls Municipal Code Section 13-305 to add a new subsection (a) (15) to comply with the "Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act"

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 15th, 2013 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented
3. Allow application for HOME SFOOR grants.
4. Approve Resolution 2013-669 requesting a text amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance for medical marijuana cultivation centers, and dispensing organizations to be classified as permitted adult uses.
5. Approve the purchase of a mini excavator to Vermeer Inc. 28021 Beverly Drive, Aurora, IL \$23,614

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Watts to approve the consent agenda by omnibus vote.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Blackert presented the Council with a one year agreement with Mr. Tim Slavin for administrative hearing services. She stated that this program has been a success for both Sterling, and Rock Falls. She recommends the council visit the hearings if they have not yet, because there are various offenses covered. Mayor Wescott explained that many of these cases were being thrown out by the county courts because they are overloaded, and these may be considered less serious. He stated that compliance has improved as a result of this process. Alderman Kuhlemier noted that this has helped the police, and building officials clean up the city. A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Vandersnick to approve

resolution 2013-670 authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for hearing officer services – code enforcement department.

Vote 8 aye motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the council that the response letter that she had drafted, will be included, and be made a permanent part of the 2012-2013 audit. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that at the IML conference, having a response letter for audits was recommended. A motion was made to attach the response letter to the audit by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Snow.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

The council reviewed a new policy concerning the use of “Channel 5”. Mrs. Blackert explained that this channel is a government access channel, and that the FCC does have different regulations for it than a public access channel. Alderman Watts questioned the types of events that could be posted on the channel, and it was explained that only government, civic organizations and registered non-profits would be able to post to the “bulletin board” programming of the channel. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Snow to approve the policy manual with a change on Page 4 to Section H number 5, and review by the city attorney.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Administrator Blackert thanked the Aldermen who signed the letter that she had distributed that will be sent to Representative Bustos in opposition to changes in the tax exempt status of municipal bonds.

Glen Kuhlemier - Chairman of the Finance Committee

Alderman Kuhlemier thanked the city employees for their help with the audit. He made a motion to accept the 2012-2013 audit from CliftonLarsonAllen. The motion was second by Folsom.

Vote 8 aye motion carried

Information / Correspondence

Clerk Arduini read a thank you letter from the Whiteside County Housing Authority for public works projects around the Coloma Homes.

Department Heads

Building Inspector Searing presented a report to the council illustrating the work that Pastor Brian Tribley, and his group at the Firehouse of God Ministries have done for the city over the past year. This group has made many improvements along the riverfront, the boat launch, lower dam, Hennepin Canal and Park District. Alderman Snow commented on volunteerism, and with the right leadership, and workers it can be a real asset to the

community. This volunteer work can be seen around our town. Alderman Watts informed the council of a new part of the Rock Falls Tourism's Facebook page highlighting "voluntourism". Mayor Wescott stated that others are asking Mr. Tribley if they can help when they see Brian's group working. He mentioned that if there are any groups that would like to help to contact Mr. Tribley.

Ward Reports

Alderman Mark Vandernick informed the council that the Ordinance- License- Personnel- Safety Committee meeting will be moved to November 21st at 5:30pm due to Thanksgiving.

Alderman Kuhlemier wished Betty Arroyo a happy 99th birthday.

Alderman Hand thanked the council for their thoughts, and moment of silence for his Mom's passing.

Mayor's Report

Mayor William Wescott reminded everyone that the Hometown Holidays celebrations are soon and some highlights are bingo on November 21st, Lovelight Tree Celebration / Christmas walk on the 22nd, and parade on the 23rd. He commented on Illinois House Bill HB924 and informed the council that he has drafted a letter in opposition to the insertion of "responsible bidder" language for public projects. This legislation, which has been in the works for some time, would require all bidders to have U.S. department of labor training. This would reduce the number of eligible bidders, and increase costs for the city. Mayor Wescott wanted to thank all of the city employees, unions, and friends for their support in the sudden loss of Jeff Wescott's wife Valerie. He remarked that it was the largest visitation he had ever seen, and that we at the city are all family.

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Viva Voce Vote motion carried