

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

January 7th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. January 7th, 2014 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, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Snow was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Audience Request

Gloria Grant, and Biacha Lucansic of Big Brothers Big Sisters approached the council and explained a little about their program. They urged others to be involved, and help mentor a child. A proclamation was read by Clerk Arduini proclaiming January as National Mentoring Month in the city of Rock Falls. A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Folsom to accept the proclamation.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Special Recognition

Police Chief Michael Kuelper introduced 3 new police officers to the council. They were Chad Hermes, Scott Allspaugh, and Nicholas Butler. The Chief also introduced 2 new telecommunicators to the Council. They are Kari Anderson, and Rachelle Moreno.

Police Chief Michael Kuelper announced the promotion of Officer Doug Wolber to Sergeant, and presented him with a pin.

Ordinance Second Reading / Adoption

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick and second by Shuneman to Adopt Ordinance 2014-2147 authorizing the Mayor to execute a consent to assignment of sale contract for 812 Ave. A to Michael Sterba.

Vote 7 Aye, motion carried

Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the December 17th, 2013 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented.
3. Approve the engineering agreement for the 7th Avenue Watermain Replacement with Willett Hoffman 809 East 2nd Street Dixon, IL. for \$19,500
4. Under recommendation from the Finance Committee sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Drainage District No. 5. This formalizes the agreement of a \$5000 yearly payment for maintenance of the drainage ditch.
A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Reitzel.

7 Aye, motion carried by omnibus vote

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Robbin Blackert presented the council with pictures of a 2008 Ford Expedition that the Fire department wishes to purchase from the Byron Fire Protection District for \$17,000. She explained that this vehicle will come with a light kit, and command box installed. A motion to accept the purchase was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Reitzel.

Vote 7 Aye, motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that there will be an informational public meeting at 6:30 on January 21st. This meeting will allow for comments on the USEPA Assessment Grant Application. A draft grant application will be available for public review, and comment starting January 13th, 2014 and ending January 17th, 2014. The document will be available from 8am to 5pm at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall. Written or verbal comments will be accepted by close of business on January 17th, 2014.

Information / Correspondence

Clerk Arduini announced the resignation of Dave Milne from the water department. He worked for the city for 22 years.

Brian Frickenstein, City Engineer gave his recommendation to the Council that they approve all bids for MFT General Maintenance Material. The department superintendents can then use their discretion in purchasing material for maintenance. A motion to approve all bids was made by Alderman Reitzel, and second by Watts.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Department Heads

Superintendent Ted Padilla reported that during the last 38 days the staff has been short-handed, and working long hours. Twenty of those days the crews were working after hours. The department has went through all 300 tons of salt, and is expecting another delivery soon. He want to thank all of the city employees coming together to help. There were 3 main breaks, and a service leak. He reports that the tall piles of snow at busy corners will start to be taken down soon. Alderman Watts stated that a post on Facebook thanking the Rock Falls Public Works has received many likes and views from the public.

Fire Chief Gary Cook explained some of the challenges the department has had with frozen pipes, and water leaks. Deputy Chief Bill Milby explained a situation that occurred at Civic Plaza II. He stated that at 4:00am an automatic fire alarm was reported, and water was running through the building. The crews stopped the water, and then searched for the possible fire. He called Building Inspector Searing to evaluate the condition of the building. They had high hopes to keep the building open, but a boiler problem on the 5th floor sent carbon monoxide levels to 500ppm on the 5th floor, and 400ppm on the 4th floor. They had to condemn the building because of this, and the Fire Department began evacuation. Many groups came to help. The Red Cross, Firehouse Ministries, Self Help, Caseys, other restaurants, and other organizations all made this go well. The Mayor and City Administrator along with Jim Duffy from Whiteside County were all on the scene helping. Mayor Wescott stated that the quality of our employees, and their training was shown during this evacuation. Inspector Searing followed by saying that the whole community came together to help, and that all of the tenants, and management have been great. He stated that he is hopeful that it will be open again by Friday.

Mayor Wescott spoke for Dick Simon who had to step out of the council meeting. He explained that the city started up five of its diesel generators to produce power for the city, as well as to supply the grid with power for surrounding communities. He stated that the price of 1 Megawatt of electricity went from \$470.00 up to \$1710.00 overnight during this extreme temperature drop. Having these gensets providing electricity for ourselves, and having the ability to stabilize prices for the city is why we have our own electric department.

Committee Items

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Watts to approve the recommendation from the Ordinance – License – Personnel – Safety Committee to present to the Planning and Zoning Commission a change in zoning for the downtown area to MU-1. This would make the entire area of downtown area uniform for the new buildings and improvements.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ward Reports

Alderman Mark Vandernick gave thanks to all of the Department Heads, and employees.

Alderman Daehle Reitzel wanted to remind everyone that a lot of the work that has been recently, was done while most people are sleeping.

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier gives accolades to the workers, and reminds everyone to drive safe with the snow piled up obscuring vision around corners. He also wanted to announce that on January 24th 2014 from 9am to 11am The Whiteside County Comprehensive Plan work session will be held in the Rock Falls Council Chambers.

Alderman Dave Hand gave thanks to all of the restaurants, and social agencies for their help with the evacuation.

Alderman Jim Schuneman stated that the job done at Civic Plaza II was remarkable.

Alderman Lee Folsom said thanks to everyone involved.

Alderman Watts thanked the Mayor, and City Administrator for their report on the Electric Department. He also urges business owners to remove snow from sidewalks, and think about accessibility of people when removing snow.

Mayor's Report

Mayor William Wescott remarked about someone special who we lost on January 1st, 2014. Don Stachowiak better known as Smokey passed away after a fall. Mr. Stachowiak was a teacher for 31 years, retiring in 1994. He was a proud member of the Marine Corps. Being part of the Whiteside County Marine Corp League, and organizing many Toys for Tots drives. Mr. Wescott stated that students from all over the country have posted messages at the funeral home website.

Mayor Wescott explained what the Foreign Fire Insurance Board is, and also informed the council that they will be purchasing an additional \$6500.00 worth of equipment for the firefighters.

Mayor Wescott also reminds everyone that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:00 on January 27th.

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 7:21 p.m.

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk