

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

February 4th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. February 4th, 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, Snow, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Kuhlemier was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Blackert were also present.

Mayor Wescott asked that Ordinance 2014-2148 be removed from the agenda.

Community Affairs

Carolyn Long representing the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce informed the council that the grass roots luncheon had been cancelled. She also reminded the council that the annual Chamber Dinner will be held on February 27th, and Basket Bingo will be held on March 28th.

Consent Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approve the bills as presented.
3. RICE NESHAP Compliance Stack Test for Gen Sets 1-7 (3 years) test plan and testing for IEPA - BHMG Engineers, Inc. 630 Jeffco Blvd. Arnold, Mo. 63010 -\$45,000
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 explained that a letter that was sent out to many residents and business owners may have been confusing. The letters pertained to the hearing that will be held concerning a zoning change to MU-1 in the downtown area. Adm. Blackert stated that a copy of the proposed MU-1 Zoning Map, and explanations of the MU-1 zoning are now available on the home page of the city's website.

Administrator Blackert reported to the Council that the gaming revenues for the city in December were \$5391.28. Adm. Blackert also explained that the city's estimate of \$50,000 in annual gaming receipts is far more accurate than the \$200,000 estimate by the state of Illinois.

Administrator Blackert presented a PowerPoint explaining the funding amounts for the Fire and Police Pensions. Adm. Blackert also explained in detail the new laws that will penalize

municipalities if they do not adequately fund these pensions. LGDF or Local Government Distributed Funds can be withheld by the state if these pensions are not funded. In 2016 1/3rd, 2017 2/3^{rds}, and by 2018 100% of the LGDF could be held back from cities, and paid into the pensions. Adm. Blackert explained that according to the States Department of Insurance calculations the city's fire pension is funded at 95%, and the police pension if funded at 68.5%. Mayor Wescott explained that there are a lot of variables to getting these pensions fully funded. It has to do with return on investments, as well as contributions by employees, and the city. He stated that the IMRF pension was also hurt in 2008, and the city needs to contribute now while it can, so that the LGDF funding is not affected.

Information / Correspondence

Clerk Arduini announced a couple of meeting date changes. He stated that the Ordinance License / Personnel Safety committee has been moved to February 20th, at 5:30pm. The Council also agreed that even though the City offices will be closed on President's Day, the Committee of the whole meeting to discuss the Hennepin Canal surveys will be held on February 17th, 2013 at 6:00.

Department Heads

Building Inspector Mark Searing informed the Council that there will be an informational meeting about a new Rental Inspection ordinance. This meeting is open to the public as well as landlords in the area. The meeting will be at held in the Community Building on February 26th at 6:30 pm.

Committee Reports

Mayor Wescott informed the council that he and Clerk Arduini had recently attended a meeting with the IPBC who handles the city's health insurance. He explained that the city was the second community to join the NIHII sub pool for purchasing health insurance. The IPBC recommends that the city reduce the premiums for health insurance by 4% this year, and increase dental premiums by 3%. A motion to accept these rate changes was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Watts.

Vote 7 ayes, motion carried

Ward Reports

Alderman Mark Vandersnick stated that the city crews were doing a great job at keeping the streets clean from all of the recent snowfall. He also urges resident to keep the fire hydrants cleared from snow.

Alderman Daehle Reitzel thanks everyone for driving safely.

Alderman Brian Snow congratulated the city crews, and reminded residents about shoveling sidewalks.

Alderman David Hand urged everyone to watch the corners when driving, and take it slow.

Alderman Schuneman recognized that this winter has been brutal, and thanks all of the employees for their hard work. He stated that it was the coldest January in years, and everyone has had to deal with snowstorm after snowstorm. He is grateful for the job they have done this year.

Alderman John Watts remarked on a recent Sauk Valley Media story that focused on spending by cities at the IML conference in Chicago. He stated that the report as published was not accurate, and that he used social media to try to distribute correct information. He feels strongly that there is an opportunity and a need to keep the public informed. He states that he and the Mayor have hosted neighborhood meetings at his home, and helped create a Facebook page to give Rock Falls residents instant access to information and communication.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Bill Wescott requested that the city develop a Hennepin Canal - Trails Committee that will combine the Recreational Trails committee, and the Hennepin Canal Ad-Hoc committee. The purpose of the new committee is to continue investigation, and development of the Hennepin Canal as a recreational destination. It will also help the city perform its due diligence in working toward annexation of the canal, and a lease agreement with the IDNR. The members of the committee will be John Larson, Larry Spinka, Mike Sterba, Brian Tribbley, Tim Wilson, Tim Keller, and a representative from both the RRDA, and IDNR. The first meeting will be February 13th, at 4:00pm.

Mayor Wescott informed the council that the city is to receive \$250,000 for its SFOOR grant application for this year. This will help fix 6 more homes. He stated that since Rock Falls began applying for these rehabilitation grants in 2006, \$1,637,674 has been put back into Rock Falls homes at \$40,000 each. Another \$284,982.00 was also used to help rehabilitate rentals previously. Mayor Wescott thanks Deputy Clerk Michelle Conklin, and the Building Department for all of the work they put in to make these grants available for the residents of Rock Falls. Mayor Wescott also illustrated the need for these as there is currently 117 people on the list waiting for these grants.

Mayor Wescott urges residents to move their cars off of the snow routes until the road is cleared of snow. He reminded everyone that when the snow routes are cleaned, the secondary routes will then be plowed. Mayor Wescott also urges business owners to keep the piles of snow on corners at a level where the traffic will be able to see.

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Snow to enter into executive session for the discussion of closed session minutes Section 2(c)(21), and sale or lease of real estate Section 2(c)(5)

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried Executive Session begins at 7:16pm

Actions resulting from Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderman Vandersnick, and second by Alderman Schuneman to keep the last 6 months of closed session minutes confidential after review by the council.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

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 7:30 p.m.

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk