

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

October 7th, 2014

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. September 16th, 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 Reitzel, Logan, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Hand, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Recognition:

Police Chief Mike Kuelper announced to the Council that Sgt. John Worcester is retiring from the force after 20 years. He was presented with badge, and firearm.

Detective Veronica Jaramillo was promoted to Sergeant. She was presented with new rank insignia by Chief Mike Kuelper.

Senior Patrolman Jonathan Cater, and Patrolman Julia Signer were presented with Letters on Commendation, and medals for a job well done. While assisting a Sherriff Deputy the complainant had a medical emergency that led them to utilize the AED and help the subject regain consciousness, breathing, and heartbeat until paramedics arrived.

All of the officers were given a round of applause for their accomplishments.

Proclamation:

A proclamation was read by City Clerk Eric Arduini proclaiming October 5th through 11th, 2014 "Public Power Week" in Rock Falls.

City Administrator Robbin Blackert Mentioned that Rock Falls is one of only 3 cities in Illinois with the RP3 designation for reliable public power. There are less than 200 cities in the nation that have that title. We should be proud of the Electric Department.

A motion to accept the Proclamation was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Folsom.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Community Affairs:

Bethany Bland, President / CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce remarked that it is a good day for Rock Falls referring to the earlier groundbreaking at the site of the new Holiday Inn and Suites in the RB&W District. She introduced Kadina Hodges who is the new event coordinator at the Chamber. Mrs. Bland spoke about the Uptown Halloween that will be on Halloween from 4pm to 6pm. Days Inn will also be providing Bounce Houses and face painting. The Quarterly Meeting will be October 15th, and will include lunch and training for \$5.00. Candidates at Culvers will be held on October 21st, and 10% of the sales will go toward Hometown Holidays which is coming in November.

Alderman Kuhlemier thanked the Chamber for having their Ambassadors help with the ground breaking.

Alderman Watts asked about the joint parade with Sterling, Road closure requests, and the Santa race. Mrs. Bland confirmed those items and added that the event at the end of the parade at Merrill School will have opportunities for businesses who would like to set up there.

Tim Wilson from the Rock Falls Tourism office stated that the ground breaking is a highlight for tourism and he encourages everyone to enjoy the events around here. He has appreciation for the meeting of the city and tourism board.

Ordinance First Reading:

1. Adoption of Ordinance 2014- 2180 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement for License No. 3094 with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for sewer lines under canal. City Attorney Reese stated that this agreement does not need a first and second reading. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Folsom.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the September 16th, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approve the Minutes of the September 29th, 2014 Special Council Meeting
3. Approve the Minutes of the February 17th Committee of the Whole Meeting
4. Approve the Minutes of the September 29th, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting
5. Approve the bills as presented
6. Resolution 2014 - 692 Approving a Construction Loan Escrow Agreement with the Rock Falls Hotel Group naming Robbin Blackert as the designated agent for the city.
7. Resolution 2014-693 authorizing the Mayor to execute an addendum to the employment agreement with Police Chief Michael Kuelper
8. Tentative approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Stanley Consultants for improvements to the Main Wastewater Pumping Station and Wastewater Treatment Facility subject to final review by the City Attorney.

Mayor Wescott asked that items number two, and six be removed from the consent agenda and be voted on separately from the rest. A motion to accept the consent agenda items 1,3,4,5,7, and 8 by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Watts.

Vote 7aye motion carried

A motion to accept consent agenda items 2 and 6 by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Hand and second by Alderman Watts.

Vote 5 Aye motion carried Alderman Reitzel, and Logan recused themselves form this vote.

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert

Administrator Blackert asked for approval of the selection of Terracon – 135 Ambassador Drive, Naperville, IL from the Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for Environmental Consulting as part of the 2014 USEPA Assessment Grant at the Limestone Building. Adm. Blackert reported that there were 4 submissions, and Terracon was 2nd lowest in cost on the fee schedule, but they had the most experience with Brownfield projects. She mentioned that the city has a long association with Terracon from Naperville. Atty. Reese stated that there will be a contract at a later time from Terracon for the city to approve. A motion to approve Terracon for the project was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan.

Vote 5 Aye, motion carried Alderman Reitzel, and Logan recused themselves from the vote.

Information/Correspondence:

City Clerk Eric Arduini informed the council that the copies of the Audit are on their desks for review, and acceptance of the audit will be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Mike Kuelper informed the Council that he has met with Sherriff Wilhelmi, and Chief Potthoff, and the Halloween hours for 2014 will be on October 31st from 4:30 to 7:00pm.

He reminds people to leave their porch lights on if they would like to participate in trick or treating. He also asks to keep an eye out for children, and that no burning be done that night.

Deputy Fire Chief Milby reminded the Council that it is Fire Safety Week. He spoke of the importance of smoke detectors. He reported that the department has been working on flow testing hydrants, this will help with the fire rating.

Mayor Wescott added that rust may show up in the tap water.

Superintendent Padilla stated that there is product available at the utility office for helping residences that see rust in their water. He stated that flushing hydrants will go West to East, and people should check their water before using it. He stated that the water is fine to drink through the flushing.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1:

Alderman George Logan Jr. commented on the ground breaking at the new Hotel, and stated that we are on our way to progress.

Ward 2:

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier also commented on the ground breaking. He commended all of the working bodies, and former administrations that helped this day come. He also remarked about the flight of pelicans that went over the site. Mr. Kuhlemier also informed the council about the upcoming Rt. 30 meeting at the O'Dell Library in Morrison on October 9th from 1-7pm.

Ward 3:

Alderman David Hand stated that it is good to see construction on the riverfront

Alderman Jim Schuneman commented on the rehabilitated house on Avenue A. He was against the project in the beginning, but he is impressed with the job Mike Sterba has done fixing it up. It is a beautiful addition to the neighborhood.

Ward 4:

Alderman John Watts made remarks about the "7th Ave. Shocker". When Mr. Warren had come before the City Council previously, he was not in compliance with codes. Mr. Warren has worked with the city, the attraction is open now and very busy, and helping raise awareness about Huntington's disease.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott asked for a motion for the appointment of Michael Clark to the Industrial Development Commission for a five (5) year term 2014-2019, replacing Karen Reynolds.

A motion was made by Alderman Hand, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott also asked for the appointment of City Administrator Robbin Blackert to the Whiteside County E-Zone for a 3 year term from 10-2014 to 10-2017. Alderman Reitzel made a motion for the appointment and second by Alderman Watts.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott asked the Council to inform him if anyone would like to ride in the Pierce Fire Truck during the Homecoming Parade. They will need to meet at the Fire Department at 4:30 if interested.

Mayor Wescott asked for the appointment of Glen Kuhlemier as "Mayor Pro Tem" for the dates of October 9th- 11th, 2014. A motion was made by Alderman Watts, and second by Schuneman for the appointment.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott reported that a number of residents have been concerned about the notice issued by Comcast that the Rock Falls office is scheduled to be closed on October 30th, 2014. Many citizens are very upset about it. He requests that the Council have a resolution drafted about the concern the city has about this office closure. This will affect Sterling, Rock Falls, and Dixon. A motion was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Folsom.

Alderman Reitzel stated that Comcast, and businesses should be informed that the city has fiber available.

Alderman Folsom does not see how they can do it.

Alderman Hand understands cost savings, but it will be very inconvenient.

Administrator Blackert stated that the bill already has the City Clerk phone number on it. Do they expect that the city will be their customer service now? This will lead to people taking a half day just to get service done.

Mayor Wescott added that he has reviewed the contract with the city attorney, and as long as they comply with one of four items in the state statute this is okay, and the state will allow them to close the office.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Hand to enter executive session for pending or threatened litigation Section 2(c)(11).

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Executive Session began at 7:18pm

Executive Session ended at 8:10pm

Any action taken from Executive Session

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Watts at 8:11pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk