

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

December 1st, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. December 1st, 2015 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, and Kleckler, Alderman Folsom and Watts were absent. In addition City Attorney James Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Special Recognition:

Fire Chief Gary Cook informed the Council that Captain Dave Northcutt had resigned from the Fire Department after 23 years. He announced that Nathan Hartman will be pinned Ranking Captain. Mr. Hartman and family were in attendance, and he was pinned Captain by his wife.

Mayor Wescott commented that he has known Nate's family for a long time, his brother, and father had served on the Milledgeville Fire Department.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented by omnibus designation by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Logan.

1. Approve the Minutes of the November 17th, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the renewal of License No. 3092 with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources 5 years - \$1100.00
4. Approval of **Resolution 2015-723** IDOT Obligation Retirement resolution for G.O. Bond

Vote 6 aye, motion carried

Ordinances First Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Logan to approve the first reading of the following ordinances.

1. Approval of Ordinance 2015-2244 FY15 Tax Levy.
2. Approval of Ordinance 2015-2245 Tax abatement for electric bond.
3. Approval of Ordinance 2015-2246 Tax abatement for motor fuel tax bond.

Alderman Kuhlemier explained that if we do not have the ordinances to abate these bonds, they would be part of the tax levy, rather than being paid by MFT and Electric.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert introduced Neil Densmore, and John Kothe from the Rock Falls Hotel Group. Mr. Densmore gave an update of the hotel progress to the Council. Mr. Densmore stated that the contractor that was hired for the project went out of business, and this is causing more delays at the site.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Snow to have the City Attorney draft an amended agreement extending the completion date of the hotel to May 15th, 2016.

Administrator Blackert noted that the additional legal fees will be paid for by the hotel.

Alderman Kuhlemier thanked the hotel representatives for allowing a tour to see the progress.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried

Mayor Wescott voted aye as Aldermen Reitzel, and Logan had recused themselves from the vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Kuhlemier to approve **Resolution 2015-721** authorizing the amendment to cash sale of real estate contract for purchase. This extends the contract time on the Schmitt property while the Phase 1 and 2 environmental studies are being finished.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan for the approval of **Resolution 2015-722** authorizing an inter-fund loan for the purchase of real estate. This loan is \$575,000 to purchase the easternmost parcel of the Hallman land for cash, with 1% interest, and payback in three years when the property is sold. This will allow the purchase to be completed in 2015. Mayor Wescott remarked that this is being borrowed, and will be paid back with 1% interest, which is much more than the city is receiving elsewhere. Alderman Schuneman thanked all that have been involved in these land purchases. Administrator Blacker mentioned that the plat that was presented with the resolution, has the subdivision name of "Glen's Garden" for all of the time that has been spent by Alderman Kuhlemier to acquire the land when he was Mayor. Attorney Reese explained the necessity of creating the subdivision for the parcel.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried

Information/Correspondence:

Clerk Arduini read aloud a letter received from William R Shirk the attorney for George and Janet Hallman. The letter asked that the City Council approve the "Glen's Garden" plat and refer the preliminary plan to the Rock Falls Planning Commission for its review and recommendation. A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Snow for the approval, and referral to the planning Commission. Administrator Blackert thanked Willett Hofmann for all of their hard work putting this plat together.

Vote 5 aye, motion carried, Alderman Kuhlemier abstained.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Alderman Daehle Reitzel congratulated Captain Hartman and welcomed back Alderman Logan.

Alderman George Logan congratulated Captain Hartman on his promotion.

Ward 2

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier congratulated Captain Hartman, and thanked all of the departments for being such fine employees.

Alderman Brian Snow congratulated Captain Hartman and welcomed back Alderman Logan.

Ward 3

Alderman Jim Schuneman mentioned that Steve Buchtel will be giving a presentation at the next Hennepin Canal / Trails Committee meeting. The meeting will be broadcast on Channel 5. Alderman Schuneman then read an article written by Madeleine Doubek, author at reboot Illinois, urging citizens to vote.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bill Wescott elaborated on the problems in Springfield, and how some letters, and voicemails are going without a response from the legislators. Without a budget and municipal money being held some communities are having to borrow money from banks.

Mayor Wescott informed the Council about some upcoming events:

The Wal-Mart DC is inviting the elected officials for a breakfast, and tour on December 10th, 2015.

There will be a seminar on freight traffic in Dubuque, Iowa on December 17th, 2015. This will cover northwest Illinois and Iowa, and Route 30 is an important part of freight traffic.

On December 18th, 2015 in Dixon, IL Carol Portman will be hosting a round table to discuss the possible property tax freeze.

Mayor Wescott thanked all of the employees for their hard work. During the Thanksgiving Holiday there were two water main breaks, fires, and much police work done.

Mayor Wescott thanks Robbin, and everyone who has helped with the work for the Schmitt, and Hallman properties.

Alderman Kuhlemier remarked that the director of the taxpayer's federation hosting the roundtable has a lot of the details.

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that the Rock Falls Christmas party is going to be held on December 19th, 2015 at 5:00pm.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 7:20pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried



Eric Arduini, City Clerk