

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

January 6th, 2015

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

Audience Request:

Mayor Wescott explained that DeShawn Johnson, Salvation Army Corps. Administrator had called, and explained that he was unable to attend. His attendance will be tabled until the next Council Meeting.

Jordan Bowman of 1519 10th Avenue asked how he could help campaigning for the support of the ½ cent increase to the sales tax for better roads. Mayor Wescott explained that the city has not yet begun, and it will be on the ballot in April. Adm. Blackert added that they will begin with more information in February.

Community Affairs

Bethany Bland, President of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, informed the Council of some upcoming dates. She stated that there will be a ribbon cutting at Sauk Valley Pack & Ship on January 8th at 12:30. There will also be a ribbon cutting for Sauk Valley Dog Training on January 13th at the Community Building. Mrs. Bland reminded the Council that the Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Meeting will be held on January 21st, and the subject will be customer service. The Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held at the Days Inn on February 26th, 2015 at 6:00pm. She urged interested members of the City Council to contact Sylvia to make reservations.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the December 16th, 2014 Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the engineering agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for a sanitary sewer, and water main extensions on East 2nd Street for the Holiday Inn & Suites project.
4. Recommendation from the Electric Committee to approve the Substation equipment and relay maintenance testing to A.C. Engineering of Waukesha Wi. in the amount of \$64,111.00.

Mayor Wescott asked that item number 3 be removed and considered separately.

A motion to approve items 1, 2, and 4 of the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Folsom

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Snow for the approval of the engineering agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates for a sanitary sewer, and water main extensions on East 2nd Street for the Holiday Inn & Suites project.

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

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that Governor Pat Quinn had called the Mayor to inform him of the City's receipt of the OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development) Grant in the amount of \$400,000. Adm. Blackert thanked Willett Hofmann & Associates for their help, and the production of a large sign that accompanied the Mayor to Springfield for the request.

Brian Frickenstein, City Engineer form Willett Hofmann & Associates said that he was happy to hear about the OSLAD Grant.

Department Heads:

Chief of the Twin City Joint Fire Command, Gary Cook informed the Council that the main frontline fire truck (No. 41) for the City of Rock Falls is having issues with the body shifting. A company called WIRFS Inc. inspected the truck, and found that the main structural components, and support members are failing. Mr. Cook showed pictures to the Council of seams on the truck that are splitting. WIRFS presented an estimate to fix these problems for \$54,941.00. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the estimate, and have recommended that this be done on an emergency basis as it is the main engine for the City. Mayor Wescott added that Engine 40 is currently the backup engine, and with these repairs to Engine 41, its working life will be prolonged, and it will be ready to be a backup engine when the time comes to purchase a new main frontline engine. A motion to approve the emergency expenditure was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second Alderman Snow.

City Attorney Jim Reese stated that this vote is only for getting it in to the shop at WIRFS in a reasonable time, and the expense will be put up for approval at the next City Council meeting.

Vote 7aye motion carried

Ward Reports:

Ward 1:

Alderman Reitzel commented on the good job of plowing done by the City.

Alderman Logan stated that the plowing was done well.

Ward 2:

Alderman Kuhlemier reminded everyone that the historic Optimist calendars are available.

Alderman Snow thanks all of the departments involved in the snow removal.

Ward 3:

Alderman Schuneman reminded everyone that cold is coming. He asked that residents check on neighbors, and do not leave pets outside.

Ward 4:

Alderman Folsom commented on the good job done with snow removal

Alderman Watts stated that the snow removal was done well. He also wanted to remind residents, and businesses to remove snow from sidewalks for people who need to use them.

Mayor Wescott spoke about the OSLAD Grant. He is grateful that the City has received this grant, but there is a lot of work still to be done, and the City needs to continue moving forward.

Mayor Wescott stated that the City crews did an outstanding job getting the roads opened in a timely manner, working on Snow Routes first, and then moving to secondary streets.

The Mayor also informed the Council that schools had already been cancelled for the next day due to bitter cold. He urges neighbors to keep an eye on each other because the youth and elderly are affected the greatest by the cold weather.

Adjournment

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 6:50pm

Viva Voce Vote motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk