

# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

## ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Kleckler, Folsom, and Watts. Alderman Logan was absent. In addition Attorney Tom Sanders, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that Alderman Logan is in the hospital in Sterling, and wishes him the best.

### **Audience Requests:**

George Logan Sr. approached the council concerning the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Rock Falls Optimist Historical Pride Calendar. They are still \$5.00, and the money raised by the Optimist Club for youth has given back \$300,000 in scholarships to Rock Falls' students.

### **Consent Agenda:**

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

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of **Resolution 2015-719** Urging state leaders to release non-general fund revenues to local governments.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Ordinances Second Reading / Adoption:**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Watts to approve the adoption of **Ordinance 2015-2236** Regulation of portable toilets.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Watts, and second by Alderman Schuneman for the adoption of **Ordinance 2015-2237** Residential Commercial Containers.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Schuneman for the Adoption of **Ordinance 2015-2238** adding "black wrought iron look" for fencing to the design guide.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Watts and second by Alderman Schuneman for the adoption of **Ordinance 2015-2241** Repeal of Municipal Code 8-825 - Character of applicant.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Ordinances 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

Clerk Arduini read aloud the following Ordinances:

1. Approval of **Ordinance 2015-2242** amending Sec. 8-672 - License Fee required for public garages.
2. Approval of **Ordinance 2015-2243** amending Sec. 9-61 - One-way streets.

A motion to approve the first reading of the presented ordinances was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

### **City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:**

City Administrator Robbin Blackert presented a slide and options for an increase in the tax levy above the 4.99% limit, which will require a truth in taxation hearing. This is necessary due to the increase in the City's obligation to fund Fire and Police pensions with the new rules instituted by GASB 67 and GASB 68. Adm. Blackert presented two options. One would increase the tax levy by 16.29%, with a median home property tax increase of \$67.63. The other option would pull money from tort and workers compensation reserves, remove ESDA, and crossing guards' levies to reduce the increase to 10.09% with a median home property tax increase of \$45.06. After much discussion, Alderman Kuhlemier made a motion to set a truth in taxation hearing for an increase to the City's tax levy to 110.09% of the previous year.

**Vote 5 aye, 2 nay (Klecker, Folsom) motion carried**

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that the audit was presented to the Finance Committee, and Sikich has included the city's responses to the management letter in the finished audit. The Aldermen received copies of the final audit. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the FY2015 Audit as presented.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

Administrator Blackert presented proposed changes to page 27 of the Procedures Manual. These changes pertained to "deferred payment arrangements" in the Utility Office. These changes are a result of findings in the 2015 audit. A motion to approve the changes to the Procedures Manual effective upon passage was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Watts.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Information/Correspondence:**

City Clerk Eric Arduini requested that a release of lien be given for the property at 310 Ada Street, Rock Falls, Illinois. The remaining balance of a SFOOR grant had been paid in full. A motion to approve **Resolution 2015-718** - Release of Lien was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Kuhlemier.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

City Engineer Brian Frickenstein stated that the contractor Martin and Co. is very close to finishing, and has two more items left on the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. The crosswalk, and stop bars need to be painted. The water valves, and manholes need to be adjusted.

Alderman Schuneman stated that the contractors have done a marvelous job on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Department Heads:**

City Administrator Robbin Blackert presented bids for a retrofit of lighting at the hydro plant. Alderman Schuneman made a motion to accept the low bid of \$18,630.00 to Engel Electric 1514 W. 4th Street Sterling, IL. 61081. A second was made by Alderman Snow.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Ward Reports:**

#### **Ward 1**

Alderman Daehle Reitzel asked for prayers for Alderman Logan.

#### **Ward 2**

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier hopes for a speedy recovery for Alderman Logan, and reminds the Council that the Rock Falls Chamber quarterly meeting will be held from 12:00 – 1:00 at the Community Building.

Alderman Brian Snow wishes Alderman Logan a speedy recovery, and reminds residents to follow the leaf burning laws if they wish not to use the free option that the City has provided through the waste carrier.

#### **Ward 3**

Alderman Jim Schuneman commented that the work of removing trees along the riverbank looks marvelous.

Alderman Rod Kleckler reminded residents to not burn leaves on the street, or after dark.

#### **Ward 4**

Alderman John Watts congratulated the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce for the successful uptown trick or treat event.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Bill Wescott mentioned that the issue of burning was posed to the residents in 2013, and the results were 76% to 24% in favor of burning. The rules will need to be enforced. Burning is allowed for dry leaves, and tree cuttings. Mayor Wescott cited some of the rules, and called for more enforcement. The issue will be brought up at the next Ordinance Committee meeting for discussion. With the current garbage contract there is no reason to burn, and the City will either make it compliant, or take the drastic measure to eliminate it.

Mayor Wescott mentioned that there is an opening on the RB&W Greenspace review committee due to the resignation of Ann Latchford. Alderman Snow made a motion to appoint Denise Young to the RB&W Greenspace Review Committee, second by Alderman Reitzel.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Watts to enter into executive session for section 2(c)(1) Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance.

**Vote 7 aye motion carried**

**City Council entered executive session at 7:30pm**

**City Council returned to regular session at 7:46pm**

**Any action taken from Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman to offer an employment agreement to City Administrator Robbin Blackert through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with a 3% pay increase retroactive to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

**Vote 7 aye motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman to amend the job description of the City Administrator to add the wording "Make, or cause to be made monthly and annually detailed revenue and expense reports to the Mayor and City Council of the activities of all departments. In addition, provide monthly or as deemed necessary any additional finance reports as requested by the Mayor, City Council, or suggested from time to time by the yearly audit managerial report to the Mayor and Council."

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel at 7:49pm.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

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Eric Arduini, City Clerk