

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND

ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

February 16th, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. February 16th, 2016 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, Kleckler, Folsom, and Watts. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Wescott asked that Resolution 2016-732 be added to the consent agenda from the Fire Chief's report. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented by omnibus designation by Alderman Watts and second by Alderman Snow.

1. Approve the Minutes of the February 2nd, 2016 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the service agreement with Pitney Bowes for the DM225 mailing machine for 60 months at \$90.26 per month.
4. Approval of Resolution 2016-732 Whiteside Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Mayor Wescott explained that Chief Cook and he had been working with municipalities throughout the county on the all hazards mitigation plan. FEMA is becoming proactive in administering grants for the mitigation of potential hazards to deal with problems ahead of time. Each city has filed a list of safety items, and will be applying for grants to take care of the identified issues.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert explained that the original closing date for the Schmitt property, February 20th needs to be pushed back to March 31st, 2016. It had taken the city longer to complete the environmental studies on the property, and secure financing. The owner also needed more time to purchase suitable farmland. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Snow to approve Resolution 2016-733 - Second amendment to cash sale real estate contract between Wayne R. Schmitt as trustee of the Wayne R. Schmitt Trust dated March 18, 1998 and Elizabeth A. Schmitt as trustee of the Elizabeth A. Schmitt Trust dated March 18, 1998, Sellers, and the City Of Rock Falls, Illinois.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Department Heads:

Electric Superintendent Dick Simon asked the council for approval of a make ready agreement with Casey's Retail Company for services to be provided to the site located at 1604 First Avenue in the amount of \$36,980.90. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Watts.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Ward Reports:**Ward 2**

Alderman Brian Snow informed the Council that Percussion-Palooza will be held on February 28th, 2016 at the Rock Falls High School.

Ward 3

Alderman Schuneman expressed his dissatisfaction with the leadership in Springfield, and the lack of a budget. Mr. Schuneman finds it sad that the suspension of funding to Lutheran Social Services will be shutting down 30 programs, laying off 43% of their workforce, and cutting needed services to 4700 people.

Alderman Kleckler thanked all of the contractors involved with the demolition and removal of the house on 2nd Avenue that was recently involved in a fire. Mr. Kleckler also reminded residents to move their cars during snow emergencies.

Ward 4

Alderman Watts shared the feeling of Alderman Schuneman concerning the state budget. Mr. Watts has seen the good done by LSSI, and this is just one example of what is happening all over the state.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that there will be a breakfast meeting at the Chamber of Commerce at 9:00am on February 17th, and the 60th annual Chamber of Commerce dinner will be held on February 25th, 2016. A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on February 22nd, 2016 to discuss forming a governance board for utilities, and the State of the City address will be given at the March 1st meeting.

The Mayor spoke about the outpouring of support, and giving from the community in respect to fire that took the lives of 5 Rock Falls family members. The work to remove the house, and help eliminate the bad memories was done at no cost to the family, and it is greatly appreciated by the Hopkins and Adams families. Mayor Wescott reported that the volunteers began the cleanup at about 6:30, and finished by 4:30pm.

Mayor Wescott gave his sympathies to the family of Jerry and Pat Stanley in the passing of Jerry Stanley.

Mayor Wescott explained to the Council that the City had been working with the IEPA and Terracon for over two years to apply for an assessment grant for the Limestone building along the riverfront. The project was put out for bid, and the low bid came in at around \$160,000 for the demolition of the building. The City had received an email concerning the approval by the state of Illinois, and that \$500,000 was earmarked for the project. A day later a meeting took place in Rock Falls with the USEPA, IEPA, and the City. During this meeting Steve Colentino from the IEPA had to inform the City that the funding was not available due to there being no authority to administer funds or accept grant applications without the appropriation because of the budget impasse.

Administrator Blackert stated that the City's final payment of \$72,900 for the Reliant IEPA revolving loan is coming due, and the City could possibly write a letter to the IEPA asking to hold back that last \$72,900 payment to go towards the Limestone Building assessment and demolition.

Alderman Kuhlemier encouraged Administrator Blackert to write such a letter, and made a motion to approve the letter be sent to the IEPA. A second was made by Alderman Watts.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Mayor Wescott added that the City has been responsible, and it has done the right thing. The City went through this with the OSLAD grant along the riverfront even though it had been approved. The State has no answer to where that approved grant money was spent, or if it is still being held. Previous administrations, and councils have done a great job building a relationship with the IEPA, and Steve Colentino has been a great help to clean up the brownfield sites in Rock Falls. The federal government had distributed \$3 million to the state, and some of that was to go towards administration costs. If the state is not administering any of the money to the cities that need it, where is the money going? If the money goes back to the federal government it will be lost. Rock Falls is not the only town this is happening to. South Beloit recently purchased blighted land and now cannot afford to clean it up. Rock Falls is one of the few communities that has paid back the state for the revolving loan funds. The City has done a lot of letter writing, and the leaders are just not doing much in Springfield. One or Two people are holding this up. Citizens need to contact their legislators, and go to the poles at the election and let them know that the state needs to begin to get things done.

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Snow to enter executive session for Section 2(c)(2) Collective Bargaining FOP, and Section 2(c)(5) Purchase or lease of real estate.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

City Council entered into executive session at 7:15pm

City Council exited executive session at 7:55pm

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Eric Arduini, City Clerk