

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

April 5th, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. April 5th, 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, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Kleckler, and Folsom. Alderman Logan was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Raffle License request

Carolyn Spencer from Hospice of the Rock River Valley asked for the approval of a raffle license. They would like to hold a "Queen of Hearts" raffle similar to the one that was recently held in Dixon at the American Legion. The event will be held weekly on Wednesdays at the Whiskey Barrel Saloon in Rock Falls. Proceeds will go towards the Hospice Home Fund. Some details are yet to be worked out, and they would like to begin in May. A motion to approve the raffle license was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Approve the Minutes of the March 15th, 2016 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried

Ordinance First Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2016-2260** Adopting and enacting a new code for the City of Rock Falls, and providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein. Mayor Wescott noted that this was a long time coming, and a lot of work has went into it. This new code will include all changes up to July 7th, 2015.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Ordinance Second Reading / Adoption

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Reitzel for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2254** authorizing execution of lease of area adjacent to 102 West 2nd Street for the construction of a ramp.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman for the adoption of **Ordinance 2016-2259** disposal of surplus property.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert explained that the Finance Committee met for two nights in a row going over the budget line item by line item. City Administrator gave an overview of the budget via a PowerPoint presentation.

Some of the highlights of the budget were the ½ cent sales tax increase which will increase money for roads and sidewalks from \$409,000 to \$818,000. The City held a truth in taxation hearing and due to pensions had to raise the tax levy 11.04%. The Electric Department once again attained the RP3 Award from the APPA, and usage has begun to level off after the loss of most of the industrial customers. The Water Department will begin construction of Well #7. Sewer will begin a slip lining project on East 1st Street. The new sewer plant is now on its 5th year, and the City can chart its activity. Mayor Wescott noted that the designers of the plant gave estimates of how it would run, but we really didn't know until product was running through it. Adm. Blackert added that a lot of the plant is based on biology, and some of it is out of our control.

The total budget revenue is \$25,692,958.37 and expenses are \$25,665,881.39. This leaves a surplus of \$27,076.98. A motion to approve the first reading of the FY17 budget as presented was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman. Alderman Schuneman congratulated Administrator Blackert on the great, easy to follow presentation. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that the department heads did a great job in preparing their budgets.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that Terracon had awarded the Limestone Demolition project to Green Construction from Chicago, IL. The City has submitted an application to apply for revolving loan funds from the IEPA. The project is on hold until the City knows that the state has awarded the RLF funds. Alderman Klecker asked Adm. Blackert to explain the difference between IEPA RLF funds, and a loan from a bank. The IEPA loan only needs to be paid back when the land is sold or developed. Some of it may also be forgiven at some time as well. Mayor Wescott stated that the City of Rock Falls has a good relationship with the IEPA, and that helps with the process.

Information/Correspondence:

Eric Arduini, City Clerk

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the RBW District permit for St. Andrews' Spring Fest.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the Haying Lease to Jim Friedrichs for Industrial Park land. The motion was amended to ensure that the contract stated the lease is at \$850.00 per year to be paid the last day of April each year of the contract.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

Item number three relating to the lawn maintenance bid was removed from the agenda to be discussed at the next Building Code Committee meeting on Wednesday April 6th at 5:15pm.

Department Heads:

Mayor Wescott congratulated the police department on their work in apprehending a suspect over the weekend.

Electric – Dick Simon

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Folsom to approve the recommendation from the Electric Committee for Platinum Service, Annual Software Support, and Maintenance in the amount of \$19,268.00 from Survalent Technology located at 2600 Argentia Road, Mississauga, Ontario Canada.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

Tourism – Janell Loos

Director Loos gave the Council an update about upcoming events in the City.

- RRDA Hennepin Canal Cleanup April 23
- Southtown K9 Dock Diving Competition April 30 – May 1
- 8th Annual Spring Challenge Baseball May 14-15 May 21-22
- Pink Heals confirmed an event for July 29-30

Adm. Blackert noted that a diving dog from Rock Falls was featured on Good Morning America last year.

Ward Reports:

Ward 1

Mayor Wescott reported that Alderman Logan called and he was on his way to Madison to be checked out by doctors.

Ward 2

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier reported on his recent trip to Springfield for the Governor’s Conference on Tourism. The Governor elaborated on Illinois experiencing record tourism, and The number of people the industry employs. Mr. Kuhlemier spoke about a session with Google which highlighted the future of online hotel bookings.

Ward 3

Alderman Schuneman thanked the department heads for their work on the budget. He reported that the prairie plots were burned with the help of Jim Duis, Mary Nelson, Bill Milby, Rock Falls Fire Department, Rock Falls Street Department, and Mark Searing.

Alderman Schuneman reported on the wonderful turnout for the Trails Charrette held at the Community Building. He gives a big thanks to George Bellovics for facilitating the event, along with WSDR and Sauk Valley media for helping with the turnout of over 20 people. He thanked Clerk Arduini for his help, and thanked the community members for coming out to the event. One thing he likes about living here is that we are all like a big family.

Alderman Schuneman reported that he had also attended the Governor’s Conference on Tourism, and was stunned that for every \$1.00 spent on tourism, it nets a return of \$8.00 in the local economy. People will want to visit Rock Falls for attractions, events, and we need to tell the story of Rock Falls.

Alderman Kleckler reminded residents that April is here, and yard waste pickup is available again now for free.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott informed the council that he will be making committee changes with the changing of Aldermen. Alderman Kleckler has agreed to join the Finance Committee, and the changes will be on the April 19th City Council meeting.

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday April 25th for the discussion of a Utility Board, and consolidated dispatch. Mayor Wescott reported that he was asked to speak about Rock Falls at a TIF conference in Moline. S.B. Friedman had helped the City of Rock Falls develop the Downtown, and Riverfront TIF Districts. The Mayor was well received at the Moline TIF Association when talking about the new hotel in the TIF district.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Reitzel to enter into executive session for:

Personnel Section 2(c)(1) Review of Utility Office Supervisor employment contract.

Collective Bargaining Section 2(c)(2) FOP sworn peace officers, and telecommunicators.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

City Council entered executive Session at 7:27pm

City Council returned to regular session at 7:37pm

Any action taken from Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the one year contract for Utility Department Superintendent with Diane Pavinato.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to adopt **Ordinance 2016-2256** Approving collective bargaining agreement with FOP sworn peace officers rank of lieutenant and below.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to adopt **Ordinance 2016-2257** Approving collective bargaining agreement with FOP full time telecommunicators and community services officers.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

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 7:40pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried



Eric Arduini, City Clerk