

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

November 1st, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. November 1st, 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, and Folsom. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese was present.

Audience Requests:

Sharon Simester approached the Council to report her first negative response from the video gaming now allowed. Mrs. Simester reported that she has a tenant that works, but cannot pay rent due to gambling. She also expressed concerns about the homeless shelter in Sterling, and feels it should be open more than 12 hours a day, and 6 months of the year.

Community Affairs:

Debbie Wilhelmi Ambassador and executive chairman of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce reported that 30 businesses, and around 2500 people participated in the uptown Halloween Trick or Treat. This event breathes life into the uptown, and connects residents to the businesses. Mrs. Wilhelmi mentioned that Hometown Holidays is coming up with Bingo on November 17, Lovelight Tree and Christmas Walk on November 18th, and the Twin City Holiday Parade on November 19th.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent agenda was read aloud by Clerk Arduini. A motion to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Folsom.

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 18th, 2016 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinance Second Reading / Adoption:

1. A motion was made by Schuneman, and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to adopt **Ordinance 2016-2286** Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Division 2 to provide for procedures before the Local Liquor Control Commission.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried (Alderman Snow Recused himself from this vote)

City Administrator Robbin Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert presented options for the tax levy explaining the required Police and Fire pension contributions to the Council. Last year the City has used reserve funds for part of the funding, making it easier on homeowners. Crossing guards are no longer on the tax levy, as they are being paid for by the school districts now. Administrator Blackert presented 4 options for this year's tax levy.

Option #1 funds the pensions at the 100% of the actuarial recommended amount which would be an increase of 25.11% or \$105.19 additional on a median family home. Option #2 funds the pensions at the Illinois Department of Insurance statutory minimum level and would be an increase of 14% or \$60.26. Option #3 would fund the pensions at the statutory minimum, and use \$120,000 rural fire protection funds to help fund the Fire pension which equates to a 4.95% increase or \$23.69. Option #3 would not require a truth in taxation hearing. Option #4 was not presented to the Finance Committee originally, and would fund the pensions at 100% of the actuarial recommendation along with using the \$120,000 from rural fire to make a 15.32% increase or \$65.62 on a \$71,000 home. Administrator Blackert informed the committee that the City auditors have recommended that the City strongly consider only the two 100% funding options. There was much talk about the unrealistic burdens that the state government has put on the City to fund these pensions. The Council hopes that the state of Illinois will change these requirements.

Alderman Kleckler recommends Option #2, with the hopes that the General Assembly will make changes to these requirements.

Alderman Logan would like to see the \$120,000 put into an equipment fund for fire trucks, and levy at the 90% under Option #2.

Alderman Schuneman feels that it is Springfield fault that these funding levels are so high, but the fiscally responsible choice would be to fund them at 100%.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that he would rather pick Option #2 or #3 but Option #4 is best because funding at 100% is the conscientious thing to do in the long run. Rock Falls has been carrying rural fire for all of these years, and pension is currently a bigger threat than fire trucks.

Alderman Reitzel recommends funding at 90% as the requirement is to be 90% by the year 2040.

Alderman Snow states that he hates to see taxes go up, but the difference between Option #2 and #4 is an increase of around \$5.00 per year on an average home.

Mayor Wescott reminded the Council that the Fire and Police Pensions are not owned by the state. The Department of Insurance made the rules for us to fund the pensions this way. If the City does not adequately fund the pensions, the pension boards can notify the state, and the check will be cut to the pension board and take it from the City funding. He also reminded the Council that the Police and Fire employees make contributions from their checks to the pensions.

A motion was made by Alderman Kleckler and second by Alderman Reitzel to use Option #2 to set the tax levy.

Vote 4 aye (Reitzel, Logan, Kleckler, Folsom), 3 nay (Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman) without a majority the Mayor voted nay, motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Schuneman to use option #4 to set the tax levy.

Vote 4 aye (Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Folsom), 3 nay (Reitzel, Logan, Kleckler) without a majority the Mayor voted aye, motion carried.

A truth in taxation hearing will be scheduled for November 15th, 2016 prior to the regular City Council meeting.

Information/Correspondence:

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Snow to approve the proceeds of the Centennial Fund be used for the Sesquicentennial Celebration in the amount of \$3226.48.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Reitzel to give the City Clerk authorization to seek bids for the cash farm lease of the farmland in the Glen's Garden Subdivision.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

City Engineer Brian Frickenstein gave an update to the Council about the progress of the Riverfront Park. Alderman Klecker inquired about the different way that the concrete was poured. There are two different types of concrete on the site. Some parts that are similar to a sidewalk, and some is designed for truck traffic.

Department Heads:

Electric Department

Director Dick Simon asked for approval, and a motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Snow for the approval of the recommendation from the Electric Committee to accept the bid from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. 708 Blair Road, Willow Grove PA. in the amount of \$124.50/ hr. Alderman Kleckler asked if we can be assured that in a time of emergency the City of Rock Falls will be serviced by the tree trimmers.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve the recommendation from the Electric Committee for adoption of the Electrical Inspection Policy.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Utility Office

Supervisor Diane Hatfield presented write-offs for July- September 2016. A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Logan for the write-offs July- September, 2016 in the Utility Office and write-offs of the presented Electric Department invoices. Alderman Snow asked for the totals of the write-offs. The Customer Service amount was \$21,965.02 and the Electric invoices were \$21413.28.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Folsom for the adoption of changes to the billing schedule in the Procedures Manual Governing Utility Service as recommended by the Electric Committee.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ward Reports:

Ward 1:

Alderman Daehle Reitzel commented that it was a beautiful day despite the thick smoke outside. He asks that residents don't abuse burning. He also thanked representative Smiddy for helping out Chicago and ignoring us, and reminded everyone to vote.

Ward 2:

Alderman Kuhlemier informed the committee that all lanes are open on Route 40 over the canal bridge. The City will be back to normal when Route 30 is reopened.

Alderman Snow commented "Go Cubs"

Ward 3:

Alderman Schuneman commented that the pedestrian lane is open under the bridge at the canal now. He give congratulation to all of the kids who participated in fall sports, and good luck to the teams who are still participating. Alderman Schuneman mentioned Braydon Hamlin who is running his 4th cross country meet this weekend, and is looking to go to state. He came in second last year.

Alderman Kleckler asked if there will be a Rock Falls presence in the Hometown Holiday Parade.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman to enter executive Session for section 2(c)21 review of closed session minutes.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

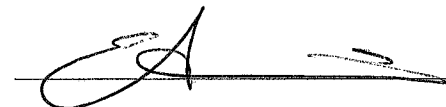
City Council enters executive session at 7:40pm

City Council returns to regular session at 7:43pm

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 7:44pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Meeting is adjourned at 7:44pm



Eric Arduini, City Clerk