

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
April 4, 2017

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. April 4, 2017 in the Council Chambers of Rock Falls by Mayor William B. Wescott.

Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin 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 James Reese, and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

A public hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. to hear public comments concerning the proposed annexation agreement for property located at 222 Martin Road, Rock Falls IL. Hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Recognition:

Fire Chief Gary Cook introduced new Fire Fighter Mark T. McPhillips, he was pinned by his brother Fire Fighter Brian McPhillips.

Audience Requests:

Michael Rizzo, a citizen from Whiteside County addressed the City Council on his concerns about the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Rock Falls, City of Sterling and Whiteside County. Mr. Rizzo presented a written copy of his concerns which have been attached and made part of these minutes.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve the Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Regular Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented
3. Approval of Resolution 2017-758 – Accepting a Grant from IHDA Abandoned Residential Property Municipal Relief Program

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

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Ordinance First Reading:

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Snow to approve the first reading of the following Ordinances:

1. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2303 Authorizing Lease of Real Estate for Cellular Tower.
2. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2304 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance.
3. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2305 Vacating a portion of alley south of Ada Street
6. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2308 Amending Article XI of Chapter 6 – Private Outdoor Pools.
7. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2311 Amending Section 34-283 and Section 34-284 Uses for B-1 Zoning.

Viva Voce Vote, 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Reitzel to approve the first reading of the following Ordinances:

4. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2306 Adding Article VI to Chapter 20 – Open Burning
5. Approval of Ordinance 2017-2307 Amending Section 32-510 Burning

Alderman Schuneman stated that he had a problem with the two Ordinances not being taken back to the Ordinance Committee for review. It seems that there is no compromise with burning, it is either a complete ban or nothing. The City by Ordinance allows burning of prairie grasses but yet we will not allow the residents to burn yard waste and we have not given them any way to get rid of their yard waste.

Alderman Reitzel reminded the Council that the City's contract with our waste hauler already has provisions to pick up yard waste, all you have to do is put it in paper bags or into a container with an "X" on it and put it out to the curb.

Alderman Snow stated that the City already has ordinances in place and other things in place for the residents to dispose of their yard waste.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that he has mulched or bagged his yard waste for years, these ordinances will only add another layer of government.

Upon roll call Alderman Reitzel, Logan, Snow and Kleckler voted aye, Alderman Kuhlemier, Schuneman and Folsom voted nay. Mayor Wescott voted aye.

Vote 5 aye, 3 nay. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Logan to approve Ordinance 2017-2312 Amending Section 16, 390-1 Special Use Permit. Alderman Snow recused himself from the vote.

Viva Voce Vote, 6 aye, Motion Carried.

Ordinance Second Reading/Adoption:

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Logan to approve the adoption of Ordinance 2017-2301 authorizing and providing for the issue of not to

exceed \$5,300,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), of the City for the purpose of paying the costs of designing, constructing and operating a broadband internet system for the City and related expenses, the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of principal and interest on the bonds, the levy of a direct annual tax to pay such principal and interest if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

City Administrator Robbin Blackert addressed the City Council and state that the ordinance providing for the issuance of bonds to finance the broadband system being considered now is in the same form as the ordinance reviewed by the City Council at its meeting on March 21, 2017. As you recall, the ordinance delegates the authority of the City Council to issue the Bonds to certain designated officials (the Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer and the City Administrator) as long as the final sale terms are within certain parameters (as to par amount, interest rate, tax levy, etc.) expressly set forth in the ordinance. These parameters are primarily established in Sections 4 and 12 of the ordinance. The City determined that, in order to pay the costs of the first phase of the project, the City's best interest is served by adjusting certain of these parameters slightly from the version of the ordinance that was presented at the March 21, 2017 City Council meeting. Specifically, the parameters adjusted in this version of the ordinance are as follows: (i) the maximum total principal amount of the issue would increase from \$5,050,000 to \$5,300,000, (ii) the maximum principal amount due in any single year would increase from \$470,000 to \$485,000 and the maximum tax levy (which the City would expect to abate) in each year would increase from \$485,000 to \$505,000.

Vote 6 aye, 1 nay (Alderman Kleckler), Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Reitzel and second by Alderman Logan to approve the adoption of Ordinance 2017-2302 authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sterling and County of Whiteside for operation of the consolidated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), and the elimination of all tele-communicator and community service officer positions.

Vote 7 aye, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Snow to adopt Ordinance 2017-2309 authorizing the signing of an annexation agreement with Gregg Fritsch and Randy Fritsch for the property at 222 Martin Road, Rock Falls IL.

Administrator Blackert stated that the original Annexation Agreement had been modified by changing section 7 paragraph a to read after passage of the Annexation Ordinance, the Owner shall connect and the City shall permit connection, of the Tract to the public potable water supply system of the City when supply mains are installed in a public right of way adjacent to the Tract. Owner shall be responsible for payment to City of the amount calculated under the rate ordinance of the City for any water supplied as measured by the meter installed on the Tract.

Vote 7 aye, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to adopt Ordinance 2017-2310 approving the annexation of the property located at 222 Martin Road, Rock Falls IL.

Vote 7 aye, Motion Carried.

City Administrator Robbin Blackert:

Administrator Blackert informed the City Council that Mayor Wescott and herself have been in contact with the Illinois EPA over the last few weeks regarding the Revolving Loan Fund for the demolition of the Limestone Building. In order for us to proceed there will be a notice in the newspaper running from April 6, 2017 through April 13, 2017 stating that the City of Rock Falls is going to implement the asbestos mitigation and building demolition project at the Limestone Building. The project will be supported by the Illinois EPA Revolving Loan Fund. Environmental reports including draft work plan and community relation plan will be available for public review and comment at City Hall. There will be a Public Hearing held on this issue at the May 16, 2017 Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Logan to approve the first reading of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

Information/Correspondence:

A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to approve the recommendation from the Finance/Insurance Committee for liability and worker's compensation insurance premium 2017-2018 to the Municipal Insurance Cooperative Agency (MICA) in the amount of \$474,710.00.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Logan to approve the recommendation from the Finance/Insurance Committee for the 2017-2018 renewal with the IPBC (Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative) for Employee Health and Dental Insurance through the NIHII (Northern Illinois Health Insurance Initiative) Sub-Pool. The agreement will incur a 1.1% increase for health care and 2.2% increase for dental coverage.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

Department Heads:

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Logan to waive the formal bidding procedures and approve the estimate for additional crack repair at the hydro plant by Tarlton Concrete Restoration, 5500 West Park Avenue, St. Louis MO, not to exceed \$27,000.00.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Snow to approve the bid from Sterling Chevrolet, 1802 17th Avenue, Sterling IL for a 2017 Chevrolet Colorado for the Electric Department. Bid includes the purchase price of \$29,915.00 with a trade in of the 2006 Ford Ranger in the amount of \$8,400.00, total bid price of \$21,515.00.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla presented the City Council with the Source Water Protection award received from the Illinois Section American Water Works Association for the City of Rock Falls' education program. Mr. Padilla thanked the Electric Department for their participation in the program every year and thanked the City Council for allowing them to have the program.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Logan to approve Tourism Director Janell Loos to hire Kate Williams as an intern in the Tourism Department. This will be a non-paid position.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Logan and second by Alderman Folsom to approve the recommendation from the Tourism Committee to allow Summer Splash Friday June 23, 2017 and Saturday June 24, 2017 and Spring Fest May 18, 2017 through Sunday May 21, 2017 to be held at the Riverfront Patio.

Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.

Ward Reports:

Alderman Snow informed the City Council that he had just participated in the Hearts of Gold Fundraiser which helps to raise money for kids with special needs. Mr. Snow wanted to thank everyone involved.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott informed the City Council that there is a meeting with Gensini Excavating this week and that they are hoping to start work on the Riverfront on April 17, 2017 with a tentative completion date the 3rd week in May.

A motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Viva Voce Vote, 7 aye, Motion Carried.



Michelle Conklin, Deputy City Clerk

April 4, 2017

TO: Rock Falls Mayor William B. Wescott & City Council
603 W. 10th St.
Rock Falls, Illinois

RE: ETSB (Emergency Telephone Systems Board)/ 911 Dispatch

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental agreement between the city of Rock Falls, the city of Sterling, and the county of Whiteside authorizing creation of the Twin City consolidated PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point)

On March 21, 2017, I attended the regular meeting of the Whiteside county board in Morrison, Illinois. I addressed the board during the public comment and recommended that the IGA incorporate procedures to record and retain police dispatch calls, both emergency and non-emergency, for ninety days, as well as procedures to automatically time stamp police calls in order to audit them for response time, with this information being reported to the appropriate committee for oversight, as is done with ambulance calls.

I also provided a document to County Clerk Dana Nelson for inclusion in the record, in the form of a five page letter to Governor Bruce Rauner, addressing some of the public safety issues having to do with the 911 consolidation in Whiteside county.

Later when vice chairman Glenn Truesdell called for a vote on the IGA, board member James Arduini brought up the point about police dispatch, at which time Truesdell gave the floor to county administrator Joel Horn. Joel made comments to the effect of, "We have to get this done," and "those are operational details that can be handled by the oversight committee later." These comments seemed to me to reflect a fairly casual outlook regarding public safety dispatch in Whiteside county.

The revised IGA which I picked up from Joel before the meeting was not seen by the board prior to the meeting on March 21. From talking with Joel on Friday, March 17, it was my understanding that the lawyers from Rock

Falls, Sterling, and assistant State's Attorney Thomas Senneff, representing the county, were compiling the draft IGA over the weekend before the board meeting. As a taxpayer in the county, I left phone messages for ASA Senneff to discuss the IGA on Friday, March 17, and Monday, March 20, but did not receive a call back.

After the vote passing the IGA, vice chairman Truesdell made a comment to the effect of, "It's good to see three public bodies being able to work together on something like this agreement."

I did not hear any comments from Truesdell or anyone else regarding the suitability of the IGA to increase public safety or police accountability to the taxpayers, citizens, landowners, or members of the public in Whiteside county.

The Whiteside county board has twenty-seven members. Prior to the board meeting, I spoke to many of them by phone regarding the IGA. Although some seemed to understand the issues, several made almost identical comments to me such as, "You don't live around here. You don't understand how things work around here. You don't live out here." Etc.

These types of ignorant comments summarize everything that is wrong with government in Whiteside county. Counting my ancestors reposing in the various cemeteries, and adding them together with my living relatives, I would be very surprised if I did not have more relatives in Whiteside county than anyone else in the county, including any member of the county board, should they wish to compare genealogical charts.

Clearly there is a large minority of the board that feel threatened by any sort of inquiry into public policy. My relative Phil Renkes was on the county board for eighteen years, and was chairman at one point. His father Vernon Renkes was county treasurer. There is no question that a certain element of Whiteside county board members feel that some citizens are below the protection of the laws, as evidenced by their undisguised bias.

The copy of the IGA which Joel Horn provided to me before the meeting has revisions in red, so I don't know if it reflects the version that Rock Falls

will be voting on tonight. One area of concern is the composition of the Oversight Committee in Section 3, as follows, with my comments in parentheses:

(c) A City official or employee appointed by the Mayor of Sterling (no longer an "individual" from Sterling, which could represent the interests of the public at large, no confirmation by the city council)

(d) A City official or employee appointed by the Mayor of Rock Falls (no longer an "individual" from Rock Falls, which could represent the interests of the public at large, no confirmation by the city council)

(h)(i) A County official or employee appointed by the Chairman of the Whiteside County Board ("An individual" again struck out, no representation for the public at large)

The above changes for the worse clearly show intent to steal accountability away from taxpayers in an undemocratic manner, as discussed in part within my six-page statement to the Sterling City Council on March 6, 2017.

In Section 5, there is lacking any sort of statement of intent to track and measure response time for police dispatch calls within the county. This could be provided very simply by including general language to the effect of:

"The Oversight Committee shall implement policies and procedures necessary to track and measure response times for police emergency and non-emergency dispatch, and shall report such data to the appropriate committee of the county board to ensure accountability for public safety."

Anyone who tells you that this sort of statement of intent cannot be placed in the IGA is a liar. The failure to include such language in the IGA clearly shows the intent of the police element and their apologists within the county to continue to remain unaccountable to the public.

In speaking to several county board members, I was told sad stories of how hard the job of deputy is in Whiteside county, and how I really should not

expect too much from them when it comes to responding to calls and solving crimes, because they are so overworked. This seems somewhat deceptive, since police work is no longer listed in the top ten most dangerous occupations in America, according to U.S. Labor Department statistics.

Police work is now less dangerous than fisherman, lumberjack, and farmer. Along those lines, when my cousin was suddenly killed in in a farming accident, there was no memorial from the county board as far as I know, although the board saw fit to recognize several athletes at the March meeting in question. Apparently we landowners occupy the modern position of serfs in Whiteside county, and exist merely to pay taxes to our betters without question.

Since the deputies are so overworked, and the Sheriff's Office has not been able to identify any suspects or solve any of the eight or more criminal complaints concerning our property since 2012, I find it hard to understand how Sheriff Wilhelmi was able to spare the manpower to appear personally at our property on September 21, 2016.

Although there was a forcible entry where a lock was cut, apparently my mother was not given a receipt for the lock taken by deputies Jed Renkes and Robert Luyando, in order to preserve the chain of evidence for prosecution. Apparently no photograph was taken of tire tracks leading into the property. Despite the presence of the Sheriff and two deputies, apparently no attempt was made to interview my neighbors whose house is located directly across the road from the crime scene, in order to ascertain if they heard or saw any commotion from the forced entry. Apparently the neighboring property owners whose house is located within visual proximity to the crime scene were also not interviewed.

On July 12, 2016, the Sheriff was apparently able to spare the manpower for chief deputy Andy Henson to be present at the Union Grove township meeting, where he searched my mother's purse and waved her down with a metal detector. Township clerk David Mickley was not searched when he entered the building, although local citizen Erwin Stralow was searched.

Henson then felt it was necessary to shift his position when I spoke to the board, and sit directly behind the back of my head like John Wilkes Booth.

It appears that the purpose of the Whiteside Sheriff's Office is not to identify or apprehend criminals, but to act as a sort of armed element within government to intimidate citizens and discourage them from exercising their Constitutional rights. From my conversations with several county board members, it seems that this misuse of public resources to subvert the democratic process and the rule of law is not only tolerated but encouraged.

This sort of interlocking conspiracy between elements within and without county government has been seen at other times in American history. During the Reconstruction era after the Civil War, this type of partly submerged and partly visible structure based on fear was referred to as "the invisible empire."

A quick study of the IGA detailing the exact hours of sick time and retirement benefits for the employees of the combined 911 center shows that the whole purpose of the agreement is to preserve and expand government patronage jobs under the control of the Sheriff's Office.

In no way is this agreement designed to promote public safety. County administrator Joel Horn verbalized the unspoken view of the bureaucracy, that police accountability is an unimportant detail.

When I attended the ETSB/911 board meeting on October 20, 2016, the meeting was conducted by Karl Kovaric, not deputy John Booker, although the listing shows Booker as the chairman. Karl conducted the meeting, took attendance, made motions, etc. Like so many other aspects of Whiteside county government, what is presented for public consumption is a lie not borne out by facts or firsthand observation. How could anyone be expected to trust Joel Horn or anyone else to track police dispatch "later" when it's not important to address now?

Based on my interactions and observations with employees, citizens, and board members within Whiteside county, I predict the following:

That if no provisions designed to insure police accountability are added to the IGA now, that no such provisions will be added in the future.

That police criminals within Whiteside county will correctly interpret this failure to act as deliberately encouraging them to commit crimes against citizens with no fear of accountability.

That police criminals will hurt and/or kill citizens, and that dispatch records or other relevant audio or video evidence will be altered or destroyed in order to frustrate criminal or civil process.

That due to the widespread and openly practiced lack of accountability within government in Whiteside county, it will continue to stagnate economically, until such time as the rule of law is restored.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rizzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael Rizzo