

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

November 7th, 2017

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order by Mayor William B. Wescott at 6:30 p.m. on November 7th, 2017 in the Council Chambers of Rock Falls.

City Clerk Eric Arduini called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present including Aldermen Daehle Reitzel, George Logan Jr., Brian Snow, Glen Kuhlemier, Jim Schuneman, Rod Kleckler, and Violet Sobottka. Alderman Lee Folsom was absent. In addition City Attorney Jim Reese and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

A Public Meeting for public comment on FY2018 USEPA Cleanup Grant Application by the City of Rock Falls for the Limestone Building site was held. The minutes of the Public Meeting are attached and labeled "Exhibit 1"

**Consent Agenda:**

Alderman Kleckler asked that item number six be pulled for separate consideration. The consent agenda was read aloud by City Clerk Eric Arduini. A motion to approve consent agenda items one through five as presented by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Schuneman.

1. Approve the Minutes of the October 17th, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the Proclamation for "Small Business Saturday" November 25th, 2017
4. Approval of **Resolution 2017-774** Authorizing Engagement of Engineering Services for Development of Project Scope for the Avenue A Substation with BHMG Engineers Co. 630 Jeffco Blvd. Arnold, Missouri not to exceed \$40,000
5. Approval of **Resolution 2017-775** in Support of the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

6. Alderman Kleckler asked why there was not a dollar amount attached to this proposal. It was explained that this is the approval of the route for sewer and water to service the Schmitt property. Both Willet Hofmann & Assoc. and Stanley Consulting presented their ideas for the project, and the Utilities committee chose the plan laid out by Stanley Consultants.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Logan for the approval of the recommendation of the Utilities Committee to accept a proposal submitted by Stanley Consultants, Inc. 8501 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL. for the engineering of an extension of water & wastewater services to the Schmitt property.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

**Ordinance First Reading:**

A motion was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve the first reading of the following ordinances:

1. Approval of **Ordinance 2017-2345** amending Section 8-33 of the Rock Falls Municipal Code for the replacement of Exhibit 1 and 2 of the Groundwater Supply Protection Article due to the abandonment of Well #4 and addition of Well #7.
2. Approval of **Ordinance 2017-2346** Amending Chapter 26 Article I, Sections 26-18 and 26-19 governing deposits of materials into streets.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

**City Administrator Robbin Blackert:**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Reitzel for the approval to begin the process to vacate an alley from Mary Avenue between East 11th and East 12th Street.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

City Administrator Robbin Blackert gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning the 2017 property tax levy. It was explained that the Fire and Police pensions would not be funded at the 100% level, but still higher than the state statutory minimum. Of the rural fire tax levy received approximately \$31,000 will be used for the bond payment on the tanker, and none will go toward pensions this year. By reducing the funding in both the fire and police pensions by \$54,000 each, it will result in an increase to the City's increased portion of the property tax levy of 4.99%. The increased portion of the average homeowner's tax bill will be .211% of the overall tax bill.

Alderman Kuhlemier noted that the public tends to see the property tax as a City tax, but 17% of it is what goes to the City. A motion to approve the 2017 Property Tax Levy as presented was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that city hall will conduct active shooter training with Detective Pilgrim on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and 10:00am.

**Information/Correspondence:****City Clerk Eric Arduini:**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Sobottka for the approval to distribute the request for proposals for auditing services.

Adm. Blackert informed the Council that this is automatic, as the Council had decided to put the auditing services out for an RFP every 3 years.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Department Heads:**

Mayor Wescott Congratulated Water Superintendent Ted Padilla for being a new grandpa.

### **Utility Office - Diane Hatfield**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Schuneman for the approval of the changes to the General Procedures Governing Utility Service for the Utilities Committee, and returned payments.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve the utility office write-offs in the amount of \$7681.90, and the Electric Department invoice write-offs in the amount of \$13,068.04. Attorney Reese asked about a write-off for Gensini Excavating which was explained that other work was done by them in exchange for the billed amount.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Tourism - Janell Loos**

Tourism Director Janell Loos informed the Council that there will be a Veteran's service at the Veterans Park Band Shell on November 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:15am to 11:15am. Ms. Loos thanked the Firehouse of God Ministries for painting, and power washing the band shell. Tourism is encouraging more use of the facilities at Veterans Park.

### **Broadband - Wayne Shafer**

Broadband Director Wayne Shafer informed the Council they are currently in the review stage of the second RFP for the outside plant buildout. The RFP should go out in a week or two. There are a number of items that are needed to be purchased that have long lead times, and will have delivery times at 60 - 90 days.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman, and second by Alderman Logan to waive the low bid requirement and accept the bid by Thermobond 209 N. Court Street, Elk Point, SD in the amount of \$39,057 for a Telecom Shelter at the Water Department. Mr. Shafer explained that this will be used as a second hub location, Electric, and IT may also use the shelter.

Attorney Reese explained that these are not comparable bids. The product that the City is buying is a superior product, and is not a bid for construction. Mr. Shafer was looking for the best value. He had looked at a used building, and fiberglass, but this was the best value. This is a prefab enclosure to house the equipment.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Logan, and second by Alderman Reitzel for approval of the Fire Suppression in the "Utility Room - Central Office" bid by Tri-State Fire Control, 2316 4th Avenue, Moline, IL in the amount of \$17,650.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Schuneman for the acceptance of bid in the amount of \$18,408.89 for security access control by William & Mary Computer Center, 812 12th Avenue, Rock Falls, IL.

Attorney Reese noted that the other respondents to the bid did not were not as responsive, and once adjusted for doors, it was the low bid.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Schuneman for the approval to publish the request for proposals for the Rock Falls FiberNet buildout.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

### **Ward Reports:**

#### **Ward 3:**

Alderman Jim Schuneman congratulated all of the athletic teams in the area for a great season and nice showing at state. He sends condolences to the Larson family on the loss of Dick Larson on Sunday. There was probably not a nicer man on the planet. He also commented on the loss on Ed Kobbeman who lived in the third ward in a house that he built himself for 70 years. He was a WWII vet, and he did a lot of work with the neglected canal clearing the towpath with his friends to Buell Road. He thanked Robbin Blackert because hospice contacted her with his dying wish to be one last ride on the canal. The Fire Department and EMS took the 6 wheeler and his family along the canal down to Buell road and back. He was Alderman Schuneman's friend and neighbor for 40 years and he will be missed.

Alderman Kleckler stated that he had been asked by a number of residents concerning the cut-off date for yard waste pickup. Mayor Wescott and Adm. Blackert have met with the waste carrier, and Moring cannot accept yard waste after November 30<sup>th</sup> because the centers that they take it to will no longer accept it.

#### **Ward 2:**

Alderman Glen Kuhlemier also expressed his sympathies to Larson Mfg. and the Larson family. He also said the Ed Kobbeman was a valuable and treasured employee at the post office.

Alderman Snow gave his condolences to the Larson family. He rode horses and played on a trampoline as a kid with the Larsons.

#### **Ward 1:**

Alderman Reitzel spoke about the successful uptown trick or treat which brought many people to the uptown area.

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

Mayor Wescott reported that he had sent letters to Mayor McNamara, and Police Chief O'Shea of Rockford on the City's behalf expressing how sorry we were for the loss

of their officer. We don't wish that on any community, and Rock Falls Officers will be attending the ceremony.

Mayor Wescott congratulated Sterling, Newman, and Dixon on their fine football seasons, and wished them continued success in quarter finals. It would be great to have all three in State playoffs.

Mayor Wescott also mentioned that congratulations were in order for Rock Falls High School coach Mark Truesdale who had two boys qualify for the state cross country meet. One of them Dawson Smith medaled getting 15<sup>th</sup> place out of over 200 as a sophomore. Matt Law came in at 36<sup>th</sup> place as a junior. Both will be back and had an outstanding season. The girls cross country team came in 7<sup>th</sup> out of 25 teams in the state. Alexandra Gomez medaled coming in at 16<sup>th</sup> as a sophomore as well as others who finished which are sophomores and freshmen.

The City Christmas Party will be held at Days Inn on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Logan for executive session Section 2(c)(6) - setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the City.

**Vote 7 aye, motion carried**

Rock Falls City Council entered into executive session at 7:16pm

Rock Falls City Council returns to regular session at 7:47pm

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Snow for the approval of **Resolution 2017-776** authorizing listing for sale of real estate by the City of Rock Falls.

**Vote 6 aye, 1 nay (Kleckler) motion carried**

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

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried**

Meeting is adjourned at 7:49pm

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Eric Arduini, City Clerk

**Minutes of a public meeting for public comment on FY2018 USEPA Cleanup Grant Application by the City of Rock Falls for the Limestone Building site.**

Rock Falls City Council  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Begin 6:30pm End 6:40pm

Rock Falls Council Chambers  
603 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

Following the pledge of allegiance, and roll call, a quorum of the City Council of the City of Rock Falls Illinois were present. Aldermen present were Daehle Reitzel, George Logan Jr., Brian Snow, Glen Kuhlemier, Jim Schuneman, Rod Kleckler, and Violet Sobottka. Alderman Lee Folsom was absent.

Mayor Bill Wescott asked that City Administrator Robbin Blackert present some information regarding the FY2018 USEPA Cleanup Grant Application by the City of Rock Falls for the Limestone Building site.

City Administrator Blackert informed the Council that one person had viewed the grant document (Jim Schuneman) on October 24<sup>th</sup>, and had no comment on the application. A large part of the grant application is public engagement. To gain engagement the City holds a public meeting, made notice of the public meeting in the newspaper, and on the City's website. The City will be submitting the grant application on Monday which is before the due date of November 16<sup>th</sup>. Terracon has been a very good partner in this process, and we are very fortunate to have them working with us on this project. The City began work on the grant application over a month ago and were hoping that it would not have to file the application, but that is not the case.

The preliminary reports that have come in for the soil and groundwater samples are showing elevated levels of VOCs and SVOCs. The samples are also showing elevated levels of metals. There is a need to do remediation on that ground. The City is applying for two \$200,000 grants for two separate PIN numbers. The City's share is 20% for each of the grants. The City has submitted the ability to leverage the donation of in-kind Police, Fire, Public Works and security of the site for the project.

The Meeting was opened up for public comment.

Michael Sterba of 502 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Falls, IL approached the Council. He informed the Council that he is the director of the Coloma Township Park District, and a resident of the City of Rock Falls.

The Park District is in full support of this grant application. The District has two park sites that are directly affected by this grant as well as the site itself. The Lower Dam Park directly north, and the John W. Bowman Family Park which is directly east of this site. The grant is important to them because of the VOCs and metals could contaminate the parks, or affect the number one fishing spot in Whiteside County at the lower dam which has fishermen there all of the time. Not only the contamination, but also the lack of access for everyone if the site is shut down along the riverfront.

Mr. Sterba stated that the City of Rock Falls has been very good at cleaning up the riverfront and the Park District is very supportive of that, they feel that all of this is a very positive thing that is happening right now.

As a private citizen, Mr. Sterba owns several properties in town, and feels that he is also qualified to speak on behalf of how his tax dollars are being spent. Mr. Sterba is also in favor of this grant application. The City has made great strides in developing the riverfront and trying to improve the quality of life for all of Rock Falls. He feels that our tax dollars are being well spent in these areas.

Administrator Blackert informed the Council that the application will be submitted next week to the USEPA, and we should know in March or April.

Mayor Wescott added that the grant application document was made available in the City Clerk's office from October 23<sup>rd</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017, and The City had met all of its obligations for the public comment on the application. The meeting was ended at 6:40pm.



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City Clerk Rock Falls Illinois