

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

September 18th, 2018

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 September 18th, 2018 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, Lee Folsom, and Violet Sobottka. In addition City Administrator Robbin Blackert and Attorney Tom Sanders were present.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda was read aloud by City Clerk Eric Arduini. A motion to approve consent agenda items numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 as read by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Sobottka.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the September 4th, 2018 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Approval of the renewal request for the cash farm lease (Glen's Garden) with Ted Jacobs.
4. Approval of the renewal request for the lease of property at 2400 1st Avenue for the recycling center with Firehouse of God Ministries.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Alderman Kleckler asked for more information on Consent Agenda number five. City Administrator Robbin Blackert explained that the Finance Committee had recommended paying \$120,000 of the fire pension with rural fire protection funds. This resolution allows the check to be written. A motion to approve **Resolution 2018-797** authorizing the transfer Rural Fire Protection Funds to the Rock Falls Firefighter Pension Fund was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried

Ordinance First Reading

A motion was made by Alderman Sobottka, and second by Alderman Folsom for the first reading of the following ordinances:

1. Approval of **Ordinance 2018-2397** amending Section 32-22 adding subsection (j) for transfer of services to landlord
2. Approval of **Ordinance 2018-2398** amending Section 18-152(b) (78) for parking prohibited on Harley Davidson Drive.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

City Administrator Robbin Blackert:

City Administrator Robbin Blackert informed the Council that the City has been working for three years on an IEPA Revolving Loan to help with brownfield projects in the City. The IEPA informed the City that they had set aside money for Rock Falls' projects, and the next day the City was informed that the City would receive no money, and the brownfield program was shut down. The IEPA sent a 32 page revolving loan fund agreement on Friday. It offers no forgiveness, even though the City should qualify for 30% forgiveness. It would lend \$1.5M to the city at no interest, and need to be paid back in ten years. Adm. Blackert pointed out page 29, and the new requirement of a pledge to a dedicated revenue source. The only revenue source that the City would have is the general fund. This is similar to a revenue bond. The new requirement will make it very difficult for communities that need the money to be able to get it, but easier for larger cities to use the revolving loan funds. Administrator Blackert recommends that the City wait until after the election since the IEPA Director position is appointed. There seems to be no reason not to wait, and the USEPA may be sweeping the unused funds on October 1st back to the federal government.

Mayor Wescott added that the forgiveness through the EPA is calculated through meritorious rewards. The City of Rock Falls has always done the right thing with brownfield funds. One large City, and 19 smaller cities have not paid back the IEPA for these loans as required. Instead of going after those communities, they are now making the entire brownfields program very difficult for the rest of the Illinois municipalities. This will no longer be a tool for small towns.

Alderman Kuhlemier stated that this is an unbudgeted amount.

Alderman Logan confirmed that the City has no current obligations to the IEPA for brownfields.

Mayor Wescott congratulated Administrator Blackert for representing the City of Rock Falls and presenting at a financial seminar in Peoria.

City Clerk - Eric Arduini

Clerk Arduini informed the Council that petitions can now be picked up in his office for the Consolidated Election on April 2nd, 2019.

Tourism-

Mayor Wescott thanked the residents, and the City employees for all of the help that helped make art in the park successful.

The Taste of Fiesta will be held this Saturday in the RB&W Park from 10:00am to 6:00pm. There will be entertainment set up from 1:00pm to 3:00pm and 3:00pm to 5:30pm.

The Rock Falls River Chase will be held on September 22nd and 23rd. The water is still high. Fire Department will be dragging the river on Thursday.

Ward Reports:

Ward 3:

Alderman Jim Schuneman reminded the Council that there will be a Tourism Committee on Thursday September 20th at 10:00am.

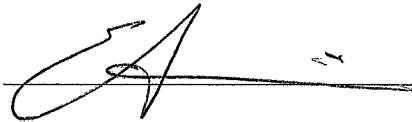
Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that there will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on September 24th at 6:00pm. Please let him know if anyone would like to discuss items along with Section 16-390 and 16-391.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom, and second by Alderman Sobottka to adjourn at 6:55pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Meeting is adjourned at 6:55pm



Eric Arduini, City Clerk