

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

May 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was held electronically (via Zoom) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Illinois Governor Pritzker's stay at home order. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. May 5, 2020.

The City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin called the roll. A quorum was present including Mayor Wescott, Aldermen Palmer, Wangelin, Snow, Schuneman, Kleckler and Sobottka. Alderman Kuhlemier and Folsom being absent. In addition Attorney Matt Cole and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Mayor Wescott opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m. to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed Downstate Small Business Stabilization application funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin stated that there were no written comments received from the public.

City Administrator Robbin Blackert stated that we have received 6 Downstate Small Business Stabilization applications funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. All applicants will use these funds for 60 days of working capital, the total amount of the grant request will be \$147,520.00. The following are the applicants and the amount of grant funds that they are applying for.

Arthur's Garden Delicatessen, Inc. - Applied for \$25,000.00, the scope of the project will be 60 days of working capital for employee salaries, occupancy (utilities) and supplies.

Ren & Ken Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a The Cooler - Applied for \$25,000.00, the scope of the project will be 60 days of working capital for employee salaries, occupancy (utilities) and to replenish their stock. Once kegs are tapped they do not have a very long shelf life so some of the grant funds will be used to replenish their on tap stock.

Touch of Thai Properties, LLC - Applied for \$22,520.00, the scope of the project will be 60 days of working capital for employee salaries, occupancy (rent and utilities) and restaurant supplies.

Wheelock Furniture - Applied for \$25,000.00, the scope of the project will be 60 days of working capital for employee salaries, occupancy (utilities) and stock that they are scheduled to receive this month.

Ahlstrand & Ahlstrand, Inc. d/b/a Corner Tap - Applied for \$25,000.00, the scope of the project will be 60 days of working capital for employee salaries, occupancy (utilities) and to replenish their stock. They will use some of the grant funds to replenish their on tap stock.

Harold's Furniture, Inc. - Applied for \$25,000.00, the scope of the project will be 60 days of working capital for employee salaries, occupancy (utilities) and stock that they are scheduled to receive.

Ren and Ken Enterprises, Inc. and Ahlstrand & Ahlstrand, Inc. have not been open at all, Wheelock Furniture and Harold's have been able to schedule appointments and take online orders. Arthur's Garden Delicatessen, Inc. has been able to keep their drive through open but are not getting the amount of the restaurant traffic that they had. Touch of Thai Properties, LLC does not have a drive through so they have not been getting close to the business that they were.

The community needs these businesses and we are really thankful for the 6 that have applied.

Discussion of the Community Development needs of the City of Rock Falls are to keep our graduates living in Rock Falls, which we have been addressing. Other community needs have been for median income housing and one of the things that Rock Falls has been desperate for is a large, full service grocery store. Because of COVID-19, it is important to keep as many businesses going as possible to enable the City to maintain its goals for community development and housing within the City.

Mayor Wescott closed the Public Hearing at 6:43 p.m.

There were written comments received for the audience request section of the meeting. These questions were read into the record by Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin.

Marshall Doane, 1111 Avenue B, Rock Falls asked about the process involved in determining which roads are going to be repaved first. Also, Marshall Doane asked if there was any way that the fences placed around the lift stations and electrical boxes could be something more aesthetically pleasing than 12 foot chain link with barbed wire. These types of fences are making a negative financial impact on the homes next to these lift stations.

Mayor Wescott referred the road questions to the Public Works/Public Property Committee and the fencing questions to the Utilities Committee.

Consent Agenda items 1 through 9 were read aloud by Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented
3. Resolution 2020-842 – Resolution in support of Arthur's Garden Delicatessen, Inc. application for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant
4. Resolution 2020-843 – Resolution in support of Harold's Furniture, Inc. application for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant
5. Resolution 2020-844 – Resolution in support of Wheelock Furniture application for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant
6. Resolution 2020-845 – Resolution in support of Touch of Thai Properties, LLC application for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant
7. Resolution 2020-846 – Resolution in support of Ren & Ken Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a The Cooler application for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant
8. Resolution 2020-847 – Resolution in support of Ahlstrand & Ahlstrand, Inc. d/b/a Corner Tap application for the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant
9. Approve the renewal of License Agreement No. 3316 between the City of Rock Falls and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a parcel of land at the Hennepin Canal (Route 40 Kiosk) for a period of 5 years (August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2025)

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Wangelin to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 9.

**Vote 6 aye, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Kleckler to approve the bid proposal from Marking Specialists Corp, 1622 Princeton Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 in the amount of \$60,881.95 for the Intersection Pavement Striping project. Administrator Blackert informed the City Council that the amount that the City of Rock Falls will owe for this project is \$32,876.00.

**Vote 6 aye, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Wangelin to approve the sale of 214 W 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Falls IL to Charles Davis, 1717 Woodburn, Sterling IL in the amount of \$2,000.00.

**Vote 6 aye, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Snow to Award the bid for the Sanitary Sewer System Improvements – W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street Sanitary Sewer Lining Project to Visu-Sewer of Illinois, LLC, 9014 S. Thomas Ave, Bridgeview, IL 60455 in the amount of \$113,370.80.

**Vote 6 aye, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$73,900.00, Tri-City Electric 6225 N. Brady, Davenport, IA 52806 for the Avenue A Substation Upgrades Installation.

**Vote 6 aye, motion carried.**

A motion was made by Alderman Wangelin and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve Resolution 2020-848 – Resolution Authorizing a Local Hospitality and Small Business Grant Program.

**Vote 5 aye, 1 recuse (Snow) motion carried.**

A motion was made by Alderman Sobottka and second by Alderman Snow to Adjourn.

**Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (7:09 p.m.)**

  

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Michelle K. Conklin, Deputy City Clerk