

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

September 1, 2020

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. September 1, 2020 in the Council Chambers by Mayor William B. Wescott.

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

Consent Agenda items 1 and 2 were read aloud by Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve Consent Agenda items 1 and 2.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve first reading of Ordinance 2020-2492 - Amending Chapter 2, Article VII of the Rock Falls Municipal Code Abolishing the Position of City Collector.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (7 ayes)

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Palmer to approve first reading of Ordinance 2020-2493 - Ordinance providing for the payment of the outstanding General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017A, of the City of Rock Falls, Whiteside County, Illinois, and the Execution and Delivery of an Escrow Agreement in Connection Therewith.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (7 ayes)

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve first reading of Ordinance 2020-2494 - Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Surplus Property and Further Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with Surf Air Wireless, LLC for the Same.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (7 ayes)

Alderman Kleckler asked Surf Air why they did not want to purchase the entire Fiber System that the City has in place. It would make more sense from a business standpoint to want to have the entire system.

Mr. Armstrong from Surf Air stated that when they were first introduced to the situation, the way that the Fiber Network is distributed, there was a certain ring that the City uses and there was a certain amount of fibers that were designated for the fiber to the home. Surf Air is interested in the fiber to the home as that is where their expertise is.

Dick Simon, Electric Director stated that the ring of fiber that the City has is used for the hydro plant, electric substations, meter points, SCADA systems for electric, water and sewer and the City buildings. This fiber started to be installed in the early 1990's and all the city departments depend on this fiber, if we were to sell it and lease it back it would be a substantial amount of money.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Wangelin to approve the request to close Mary Avenue from E 10th Street to E 11th Street on September 12, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for a Block Party.

Vote 5 aye, 2 nay, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Palmer and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve the agreement between the City of Rock Falls and the Local Union No. 196 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO (Clerical).

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Palmer and second by Alderman Wangelin to approve Ordinance 2020-2491 – Approving and Adopting a new Collective Bargaining Agreement for the time period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2024 between the City of Rock Falls and the Local Union no. 196 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO (Clerical).

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Palmer and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve for first reading Resolution 2020-580 – Authorizing Transfer of Funds to Escrow Account Relating to Bond Defeasance Made in Connection with Fibernet Asset Sale.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Kate Knowles, resident of the 300 block of E 2nd Street addressed the City Council and stated that E 2nd Street has no stop signs and very few speed limit signs along it. Cars speed down the street and she would like the City to install a few stop signs, more speed limit signs and some children playing signs. Also, from Seward Park to the Canal there is a lot of brush and weeds growing up and this is obstructing the view of the river.

There is nothing that can be done regarding the brush and weeds as this is the property of the Army Corps of Engineers. The signage will be discussed at the next Public Works Public Property Committee Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Babel to approve the appointment of Emily Roth to the Tourism Committee, as a citizen at large, replacing Mike Sterba. Term to start immediately through November 2022.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve the appointment of Alderman Casey Babel to the Tourism Committee.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Sobottka to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of:

1. Section 2(c)(1) – Personnel - Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance

Vote 7 aye, motion carried. (7:10 p.m.)

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Sobottka to return to regular session.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried. (7:22 p.m.)

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Palmer to appoint Melinda Jones as Interim Tourism Director from September 2, 2020 through April 30, 2021.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Sobottka and second by Alderman Snow to appoint Commander David Pilgrim as Police Chief effective as of February 13, 2021.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

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

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (7:25 p.m.)


Michelle K. Conklin, Deputy City Clerk