

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

March 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 6:30 p.m. March 16, 2021 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 and Sobottka. Alderman Kleckler being absent. In addition, Attorney Matt Cole and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Mayor Wescott called the Public Hearing to order at 6:31 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to report outcomes and provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the program activities and performance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Downstate Small Business Stabilization (DSBS) grants funded through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

City Administrator Robbin Blackert informed the City Council that the City of Rock Falls will be submitting the final close out documents to the State of Illinois for 5 Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grants were awarded and administered by the City of Rock Falls totaling \$122,520. This public hearing is being held in order for the public to express their views on the program activities and performance of the CDBG grant through the DCEO.

Grant #13-244111

Ahlstrand & Ahlstrand d/b/a Corner Tap received \$23,000 representing two months of working capital. All program and performance activities have been successfully completed.

Grant # 13-244112

Arthur's Garden Delicatessen received \$25,000 representing two months of working capital. All program and performance activities have been successfully completed.

Grant # 13-244113

Harold's Furniture received \$25,000 representing two months of working capital. All program and performance activities have been successfully completed.

Grant # 13-244114

Touch of Thai II received \$22,520 representing two months of working capital. All program and performance activities have been successfully completed.

Grant # 13-244115

Wheelock Furniture received \$25,000 representing two months of working capital. All program and performance activities have been successfully completed.

Mayor Wescott stated that it is credit to Robbin Blackert, City Administrator that this grant was even written and although we only ended up with 5 business getting the grant there were others that applied initially but because of the State requirements they were found to be ineligible. The 5 business that were eligible really needed the money at the time they applied and it has taken 9 months for the whole process. Although we are grateful that we were able to help these

businesses, it is very disheartening when it is such a complicated process with rules and those rules keep changing.

The City Clerk's Office did not receive any written comments and there were no citizens present at the Public Hearing to provide oral comments.

Alderman Snow stated that it was unfortunate that the State changed the rules for eligibility or there would have been a lot of other business that could have benefited for this grant. It is good news that the business that did qualify received their grant money. Alderman Snow also thanked Robbin for all of her work on this grant.

With no further comments Mayor Wescott closed the Public Hearing at 6:34 p.m.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve the Mayoral Appointment of Marshall Doane to the vacant position of 4th Ward Alderman, term to run until the 2023 election.

Vote 6 aye, motion carried.

Alderman Doane took his seat and was marked as present.

Consent Agenda items 1 through 4 were read aloud by Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 2, 2021 City Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented
3. Proclamation – Fair Housing Month – Proclaiming the month of April 2021 as “National Fair Housing Month” in Rock Falls, Illinois
4. Proclamation – Junior Achievement Day - Proclaiming April 1, 2021 as Junior Achievement Day in Rock Falls, Illinois

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Sobottka to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 4.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Mayor Wescott stated that the chair is going to pull Resolution 2021-861 from the agenda.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Babel to approve Ordinance 2021-2518 – Ordinance Adopting Revised Zoning Map.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Babel and second by Alderman Wangelin to approve Ordinance 2021-2519 – Ordinance Amending Chapter 6, Article XII of the Rock Falls Municipal Code Relating to Variation from Fence Restrictions.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Schuneman to approve Ordinance 2021-2520 – Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Rock Falls (Lots 28-33 of Benchmark Phase IV).

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Administrator Blackert informed the City Council that she had submitted to DCEO a request for reimbursement in the amount of \$95,000.00 for the emergency grants that were awarded through the City of Rock Falls Tourism Department. We are hoping to receive \$122,000.00. Administrator

Blackert also testified in front of the House Committee for House Bill 1931, which makes changes in the State Statutes to the technical definition of an industrial development project to include all surplus real estate owned by a municipality.

Alderman Palmer reminded the City Council that the Finance Committee will be holding a meeting on 03-26-2021 at 8:15 a.m. to review the City's Fiscal Year 2022 budget. The 03-23-2021 regularly scheduled Finance Investment Insurance Committee is being cancelled.

Mayor Wescott recognized all of the agencies involved in the March 5, 2021 Civic Plaza 1 fire, everyone did a great job. He also thanked the agencies that are not usually involved in emergency situations came forth to help those affected.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Wangelin to Adjourn.
Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (6:55 p.m.)



Michelle K. Conklin
Michelle K. Conklin, Deputy City Clerk