

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

August 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on August 17, 2021 in the Council Chambers by Mayor Rod Kleckler.

Deputy City Clerk Michelle Conklin called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present including Mayor Kleckler, Aldermen McKanna, Wangelin, Snow, Babel, Dowd, Devers, Doane and Sobottka. In addition, Attorney James Reese, Attorney Matt Cole, 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 3, 2021 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 8 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Sobottka and second by Alderman Wangelin to approve the purchase of a 2022 Kubota ZD1211-3-60 60" Diesel Zero Turn Mower from ACM, 14934 Freeport Road, Durand, IL 61024 in the amount of \$14,750.00.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

City Administrator Blackert updated the City Council on the following items:

- The 2020 Census shows the City of Rock Falls' population has decrease by 7.1%, from 9,266 to 8,789. During the budget process all of our state revenues that we do our calculations on we used 8,800 so this should not affect our budget but we don't like to see a decrease in our population.
- The Dixon Avenue Project is a Federal Aid Project which is funded through Urban Road Funds, Sterling and Rock Falls share this fund because we only we can qualify is to use the population of both cities. There has been a change in that financing that we were expecting to get and a change in the dollar amount of the project. Currently we would get \$1.588 million through the federal aid process and because of the increase in the cost of the project, somewhere between \$2.5 million and \$2.7 million up from original cost of a planned \$1.6 million, we are going to need to come up with approximately another \$600,000 in addition to the \$540,000 that we had budgeted for. Willett, Hofmann & Associates will be attending the 08-24-2021 Finance Committee Meeting to ask questions as to why the cost of the project went from 1.6 to 2.7 and why we were not made aware sooner about the lack of funding though the FAU process. If we do decide to go through with this project we are looking at a January 2022 bid letting.
- Larry Spinka was contacted today by CMS and the letter that we received from the State basically says that because of the incident that happened at the Cargill Salt Mine in Louisiana, which happened last December, they are expediting the closure of that salt mine. Cargill is not going to contract for all the State municipalities, so now the State is going to put out separate bids for each individual City. There would be no surprise if we pay double what we paid last year, possible that we could be up in the \$80.00 to \$90.00 range per ton and have huge supply issues this year. We are sitting on approximately 800 ton right now so hopefully we won't need to order until January. We usually budget about \$150,000 so if we have to spend \$300,000 that will become a big budget issue.

- The American Recovery Plan, which was passed by Congress, has our share as \$1,188,152.39. The request for the funds has been completed and we should received half of that in 30 days and we will received the other half in one year. This body will have to decide if they want to form a committee to decide on how they want to spend this money. The US Treasury still have the interim final report they have not finalized the rules. There is no need to figure out how to spend the money until the final rules are out, we can allocate this money for spending until December 31, 2024. We need to take our time so that we know that our expenses will be eligible expenses.
- There was a meeting with Joel Horn, Whiteside County Administrator, regarding the emergency dispatch. The County has reached an agreement with the other cities in Whiteside County, besides Sterling and Rock Falls that already pay for dispatch, and they are drafting Intergovernmental Agreements where they will be charging those cities \$25.00 per call. This is a really good thing, the residents of Sterling and Rock Falls will not be the only ones paying for the dispatch services. Once the agreements are signed they will be in compliance with the Intergovernmental Agreement that we have with them and we will go ahead and pay them the difference in what we have been paying them.

Alderman Wangelin is upset about the motorized bicycles going down the sidewalks, at a future meeting we need to discuss what we can do about this problem.

Alderman Snow thanked the Street Department for filling the pot holes and using the Total Patcher to bind the cold patch in the holes. Alderman Snow also made a recommendation to Mayor Kleckler, we have been without a City Clerk now for four months and would like to have him consider appointing Pam Martinez as City Clerk. She has been at every meeting since the new City Council was seated in May and she has had her name on the ballot in the past for City Clerk. She would be an adequate appointment for the Mayor to make for that position.

Alderman Devers stated that she had a chance to meet with individuals in her ward and has also reached out online and got some feedback on things that they are concerned about in town. I will be addressing some of the committees about some questions that they had and then possibly bring them to Council.

Alderman Doane stated that he had concerns about new street lights on East 12th Street, there is a pretty good space between street lights and it gets very dark. I am looking forward to working with Robbin and the committee to possibly install a new street light.

Ed Cox addressed the City Council and stated that this would be his last Council Meeting, he introduced the new Wastewater Superintendent Matt Trotter to the Council.

Mayor Kleckler stated that at the last Council Meeting he had asked if any of the Alderman were interested in riding the Fire Truck in the Fiesta Day Parade on September 18, 2021. Some of the Alderman were interested so Mayor Kleckler will have the Fire Truck taken out of storage and ready for the parade.

A motion was made you Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Doane to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing Litigation – Section 2(c)(11) – Pending, probable or imminent litigation.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried. (5:52 p.m.)

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

Vote 8 aye, motion carried. (6:40 p.m.)

A motion was made by Alderman Devers to approve waiver request from Aims Industrial, LLC.

Motion died for lack of second.

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Babel to adjourn.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried. (6:42 p.m.)

Michelle K Conklin

Michelle K. Conklin, Deputy City Clerk