

City of Rock Falls

603 W. 10th Street
Rock Falls, IL 61071-2854

Regular meeting minutes of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Rock Falls

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on January 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Rod Kleckler.

City Clerk Pam Martinez called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present including Mayor Kleckler, Aldermen McKanna, Wangelin, Byrd, Doane, Dowd, Stahr, Arduini, and Sobottka. In addition, Attorney Matt Cole and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present.

Rock Falls Fire Department:

Oath of Office – Kyle Sommers – Fire Chief

Kyle Sommers was sworn in as Fire Chief by City Clerk Pam Martinez.

Oath of Office – Nathan Hartman – Deputy Fire Chief

Nathan Hartman was sworn in as Deputy Fire Chief by City Clerk Pam Martinez

Chief Sommers thanked everyone for their confidence in him for this position. Chief Sommers thanked Chief Wolf for everything that he did for the department, and the department will be continuing the work on skills and the future.

Public Hearing:

- For the purpose of discussing the proposed wastewater treatment plant and sanitary sewer rehabilitation improvements.

Entered Public Hearing at 5:39pm.

Matt Henson presented information on the proposed Sewer System Improvement projects during the public hearing. He gave the Project Plan, IEPA Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination document. Mr. Henson went over the three phases of the project and the cost of each phase and a estimated timeline.

No Audience Request for the Public Hearing

Exited Public Hearing at 5:51 pm by Mayor Kleckler.

Audience request:

None

Community Affairs: Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, Sam Kersey, President/CEO

None

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda items 1-5 were read aloud by City Clerk Pam Martinez.

1. Approval of minutes from the January 6, 2026, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.
3. Refer Application for Variance for real estate located at 600 E 17th Street, Rock Falls, IL to the Planning Zoning Commission.

4. Approval to renew the farm lease with Hoffman Brothers Partnership consisting of approximately 10 tillable acres due east of the City Sewer Plant for the 2026 growing season at the current rate of \$150.00 per tillable acre.
5. Approval to renew the farm lease with Mike Gaulrapp consisting of approximately 18 tillable acres for the farm real estate located in Whiteside County, Illinois, previously known as part of the Zapf Farm for the 2026 growing season at the current rate of \$225.00 per tillable acre.

A motion was made by Alderman Wangelin to approve the Consent Agenda and second by Alderwoman McKanna.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2026-942 – Consenting to Subdivision Request (PIN 11-31-176-002).
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Resolution 2026-942 – Consenting to Subdivision Request (PIN 11-31-176-002) and second by Alderman Wangelin.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

City Administrator:

1. Approve Local Public Agency Engineering Agreement with Willett, Hofman & Associates for Construction Engineering Services for the E 11th Street Bridge Project (Section Number 19-00137-00-BR) in the amount of \$180,996.00
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve the Local Public Agency Engineering Agreement with Willett, Hofman & Associates for Construction Engineering Services for the E 11th Street Bridge Project (Section Number 19-00137-00-BR) in the amount of \$180,996.00 and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

2. Construction on Love's will begin on January 29 and be completed by July 3 and opening July 23rd, 2026. This construction site will not be an open construction site.

City Attorney:

None

City Departments:

None

Alderman Reports / Committee Chairman Requests

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the recommendation from the Tourism Committee to approve the changes to the Policies and Procedures for the Façade Improvement Grant and second by Alderman Doane.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Dowd to approve the request to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with the IAFF Local No. 3291 to change the firefighter shifts to 48/96 for a 1-year trial and second by Alderwoman McKanna.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

None

Executive Session:

1. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of:
 - a. Personnel – Section 2(c)(1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance.

A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to move into Executive Session and second by Alderman Wangelin.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried. (6:00 pm)

Any Action taken from Executive Session:

1. A motion was made by Alderman Dowd to approve the contract for Chief Sommers and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

2. A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve the contract for Deputy Chief Hartman and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

3. A motion was made by Alderwoman Arduini to approve the contract for the Assistant City Administrator and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 7 aye, 1-recused (McKanna), motion carried.

4. A motion was made by Alderwoman Arduini to approve hiring for the position of Assistant City Administrator and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 7 aye, 1-recused (McKanna), motion carried.

5. A motion was made by Alderman Dowd to approve wage increase for Fire Department and second by Alderman Stahr.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to adjourn and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote via voice, all approved (6:20 p.m.)

Pamela Martinez

Pamela Martinez, City Clerk