

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 July 7, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Pro-Tem Nathan Stahr.

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

Audience Request:

None

Community Affairs: Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce

None

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda was read aloud by City Clerk Pam Martinez.

1. Approval of minutes of the June 16, 2026, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the consent agenda and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

Ordinance 2nd Reading and Adoption:

1. Ordinance 2026-2741 – Amending Chapter 24 Signs – Prohibited in Residential Districts; Exceptions

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2741 – Amending Chapter 24 Signs – Prohibited in Residential Districts; Exceptions for second reading and adoption and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2026-2742 – Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Division 1 Alcoholic Liquor; Generally

A motion was made by alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2742 – Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Division 1 Alcoholic Liquor; Generally, for second reading and adoption and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

3. Ordinance 2026-2743 – Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Division 1 Alcoholic Liquor; Generally

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2743 – Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Division 1 Alcoholic Liquor; Generally, for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman Byrd.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

4. Ordinance 2026-2744 – Disposal of a 1962 Clark Forklift (Street Department)

A motion was made by Alderman Wangelin to approve Ordinance 202-2744 – Disposal of a 1962 Clark Forklift (Street Department) for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

Resolution:

1. Resolution 2026-949 – Committing Funds for Operation of a Joint Fire Training Center to Comply with Receipt of Grant Funding.

A motion was made by Alderman Wangelin to approve Resolution 2026-949 – Committing Funds for Operation of a Joint Fire Training Center to Comply with Receipt of Grant Funding and second by Alderman Dowd

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

City Administrator Blackert:

1. Approve a Letter of Support to IDOT for an ADA MUP Path along IL Route 30 and IL Route 40

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Letter of Support to IDOT for an ADA MUP Path along IL Route 30 and IL Route 40 and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

2. Approve Agreement with Vic Rouleau, Holcombe, WI to display a large-scale sculpture as part of the Art in the Park Sculpture Walk & Outdoor Art Gallery in the amount of \$1,250.00

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the Agreement with Vic Rouleau, Holcombe, WI to display a large-scale sculpture as part of the Art in the Park Sculpture Walk & Outdoor Art Gallery in the amount of \$1,250.00 and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

3. Approve Agreement with James Haire, Ft. Collins, CO to display a large-scale sculpture as part of the Art in the Park Sculpture Walk & Outdoor Art Gallery in the amount of \$1,250.00

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the Agreement with James Haire, Ft. Collins, CO to display a large-scale sculpture as part of the Art in the Park Sculpture Walk & Outdoor Art Gallery in the amount of \$1,250.00 and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

4. Approve a 120-month contract with Axon Enterprises Inc, for Axon Community Link Software at a cost of \$4,785.77 per year

A motion was made by Alderman Searing to approve a 120-month contract with Axon Enterprises Inc., for Axon Community Link Software at a cost of \$4,785.77 per year and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

5. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to adopt a new Sewer Adjustment Policy

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to adopt a new Sewer Adjustment Policy and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

6. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to accept the IEPA Loan Award of \$1,498,000.00 for work to be done at the Rock Falls Water Plant, with 27% (\$404,460.00) principal forgiveness with the remaining balance of \$1,093,540.00 to be paid back with an interest rate of 1.62% over 20 years.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to accept the IEPA Loan Award if \$1,498,000.00 for work to be done at the Rock Falls Water Plant, with 27% (\$404,460.00) principal forgiveness with the remaining balance of \$1,093,540.00 to be paid back with an interest rate of 1.62% over 20 years and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

7. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to accept the IEPA Loan award of \$3,218,000.00 for the replacement of 335 galvanized service lines requiring replacement with 80% (\$2,574,400.00) principal forgiveness with remaining balance of \$643,600.00 to be paid back with an interest rate of 0% over 30 years.

A motion was made by Alderman Wangelin to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to accept the IEPA Loan award of \$3,218,000.00 for the replacement of 335 galvanized service lines requiring replacement with 80% (\$2,574,400.00) principal forgiveness with remaining balance of \$643,600.00 to be paid back with an interest rate of 0% over 30 years and second by Alderman Doane.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

8. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from Quad Plus Testing, 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$79,426.00 for the maintenance testing of Avenue A Substation

A motion was made by Alderman Searing to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from Quad Plus Testing, 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$79,426.00 for the maintenance testing of Avenue A Substation and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

9. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve quote from Quad Plus Testing 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$14,100.00 for the installation and testing of one Messko Breather at the Centennial Park Substation
- A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from Quad Plus Testing 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$14,100.00 for the installation and testing of one Messko Breather at the Centennial Park Substation and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

10. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve quote from Quad Plus Testing 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$29,850.00 for the purchase and installation of one Inertaire dry nitrogen regulation system at the Centennial Park Substation.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from Quad Plus Testing 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$29,850.00 for the purchase and installation of one Inertaire dry nitrogen regulation system at the Centennial Park Substation and waive bid approval and second by Alderwoman Byrd.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

11. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve quote from Quad Plus Testing 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$241,332.00 for the re-placement of the Centennial Park transformer load tap changer

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from Quad Plus Testing 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 in the amount of \$241,332.00 for the re-placement of the Centennial Park transformer load tap changer and waive bid approval and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

12. Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve quote from PSE 2424 Rimrock Road, Suite 300, Madison, WI 53713 in the amount of \$27,000.00 for updating all South 14th Avenue Substation drawings.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from PSE 2424 Rimrock Road, Suite 300, Madison, WI 53713 in the amount of \$27,000.00 for updating all South 14th Avenue Substation drawings and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

13. Approve recommendation from Willett, Hofmann & Associates to award the bid for the City of Rock Falls' Street Department Building Concrete Apron Project to Twin City Construction, 20581 Pilgrim Road, Chadwick, Illinois 61014 for their bid of \$29,700.00.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Arduini to approve the Recommendation from Willett, Hofmann & Associates to award the bid for the City of Rock Falls' Street Department Building Concrete Apron Project to Twin City Construction, 20581 Pilgrim Road, Chadwick, IL 61014 for their bid of \$29,700.00 and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

14. Approve Customer Value Agreement with Altorfer, Inc., 8400 6th St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 for CAT 265-05XPS

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Customer Value Agreement with Altorfer, Inc., 8400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 for CAT 265-05XPS and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

15. Approve Customer Value Agreement with Altorfer, Inc., 8400 6th St SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 for CAT 938M

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Customer Value Agreement with Altorfer, Inc., 8400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 for CAT 938M and second by Alderwoman Byrd.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

16. Approval to allow the Street Department to purchase a used forklift not to exceed \$10,000.00

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve and allow the Street Department to purchase a used forklift not to exceed \$10,000.00 and second by Alderman Wangelin.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

17. Approval of paying the Axon Enterprise Inc., renewal invoice in the amount of \$43,582.04.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve a renewal invoice for Axon Enterprise Inc., for \$43,582.04 and second by Alderwoman Byrd.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

City Attorney:

None

City Departments:

Melinda Jones, Tourism Director, stated that the Liberty Bell has been placed at the RB&W Park and thanked several individuals for the restoration and placement of the bell. There will be a dedication to the City at Art in the Park. Tourism funded the restoration of the Bell, which was first dedicated to the City on September 11, 1976.

Chief Ryan McKanna stated that the National Night out will be held on August 4, 2026, at the RB&W Park and asked for W 2nd Street to have a closure for the night of the event, this will go on the next agenda.

Alderman Reports / Committee Chairman Requests

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the purchase of a 2026 Chevy Tahoe PPV AWD for the Police Chief from Red Rock Emergency Vehicles, Fergus Falls, MN in the amount of \$68,282.00 fully outfitted and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve the purchase of two 2026 Chevy Tahoe PPV AWD patrol vehicles from Red Rock Emergency Vehicles, Fergus Falls, MN in the amount of \$173,832.72 fully outfitted and second by Alderman Wangelin.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve a three-year lease purchase of the two 2026 Chevy Tahoe PPV AWD patrol vehicles through Tax Exempt Leasing Corp, Thompson's Station, TN with payments due in arrears. First payment will be due in FY 2028 in the amount of \$56,313.40 and second by Alderwoman Byrd.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Wangelin to approve the Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve an Engineering Services Agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates for design services for the development of a Long-Range Development Plan for the new Fire Training Facility in the amount of \$26,500.00 and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

Alderwoman Byrd thanked the Mayors of both cities and Melinda and team for a wonderful event on July 2, 2026. There was great feedback from the gift bags given from the Police Department.

Alderman Doane would like to revisit in the future the amount of money the City of Rock Falls gives to the fireworks.

Alderwoman Sobottka also thanked department heads for all of their hard work, and Melinda and team for the great July 2, 2026, event.

Mayor's Report:

None.

Executive Session:

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

A motion was made by Alderman Searing to move into Executive Session for Personnel – Section 2(c)(1) – Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance and second by Alderwoman Arduni.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried (6:07 p.m.)

Any Action taken from Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderman Searing to approve the contract for the Utility Department Supervisor and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 8 aye, motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Vote via voice, all approved (6:14 p.m.)

Pamela Martinez

Pamela Martinez, City Clerk