

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 September 1, 2026, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Rodney Kleckler.

City Clerk Pam Martinez called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present including Aldermen Searing, 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 Alderman Wangelin.

Public Hearing:

- Public Hearing to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on a multi-purpose path along 12th Avenue from the 100 Block to Route 30.
 - The Public Hearing was entered into at **5:31 p.m.** and Assistant City Administrator McKanna presented information on ITEP (Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program) grant opportunity for a multi-purpose path along 12th Avenue from the 100 Block to Route 30. No public comment. Public Hearing ended at **5:41 p.m.**
- Public Hearing to provide interested parties with the opportunity to express their views on a multi-purpose path across E. Route 30 connecting the 100 Block of E. Route 30 to the Hennepin Canal Trail.
 - The Public Hearing was entered into at **5:41 p.m.** for the purpose to provide interested parties with the opportunity to express their views on a multi-purpose path across E. Route 30 connecting the 100 Block of E. Route 30 to the Hennepin Canal Trail. Assistant City Administrator McKanna presented information on ITEP (Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program) grant.
 - Tod Melton, Attorney spoke about the need for a safe crosswalk to be installed on Route 30 and Route 40 stating that there has been someone struck by a vehicle and is lucky to still be here with us today. In favor of crosswalks being installed.
 - Journey Pottinger spoke about her accident of being struck by a truck while trying to cross the road at Route 30 and Route 40. She gave details of the long road of recovery she has had to endure since being struck.
 - Dave Miller, Superintendent Street Department, stated that they are working with IDOT to include crosswalks throughout the intersection of Route 30 and Route 40 while they do their intersection improvements.

Public Hearing was closed at **6:14 p.m.**

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 from the August 18, 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 Alderman Searing.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Ordinance 1st Reading:

1. Ordinance 2026-2747 – Amending Chapter 20, Article I of the Rock Falls Municipal Code Relating to Nuisances
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2747 – Amending Chapter 20, Article I of the Rock Falls Code Relating the Nuisances for first reading and second by Alderman Stahr.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
2. Ordinance 2026-2748 – Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Division 2 Alcoholic Liquor; License
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2748 – Amending Chapter 16 Article V, Division 2 Alcoholic Liquor; License for first reading and second by Alderman Searing.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
3. Ordinance 2026-2749 – Amending Chapter 18, Article VI Parking – Prohibited Areas
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2749 – Amending Chapter 18, Article VI Parking – Prohibited Areas for first reading and second by Alderman Searing.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
4. Ordinance 2026-2750 – Adopting a Social Media Use Policy for the City of Rock Falls
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2750 – Adopting a Social Media Use Policy for the City of Rock Falls for first reading and second by Alderman Dowd.
Vote 6 aye, 1-no (Doane), motion carried.
5. Ordinance 2026-2751 – Adopting Communications and Conduct Policy for the Elected and Appointed Officials of the City of Rock Falls for the City of Rock Falls
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2026-2751 – Adopting Communication and Conduct Policy for Elected and Appointed Officials of the City of Rock Falls for the City of Rock Falls for first reading and second by Alderman Doane.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2026-951 – Resolution in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for Bicycle and Pedestrian improvements on 12th Avenue
A motion was made by Alderman Searing to approve Resolution 2026-951 – Resolution in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for Bicycle and Pedestrian improvements on 12th Avenue and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
2. Resolution 2026-952 – Resolution in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Route 30 and Route 40
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Resolution 2026-952 – Resolution in Support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Application for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Route 30 and Route 40 and second by Alderman Stahr.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

3. Resolution 2026-953 – Adopting a Civility Pledge for Elected and Appointed Officials of the City of Rock Falls

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Resolution 2026-953 – Adopting a Civility Pledge for Elected and Appointed Officials for the City of Rock Falls and second by Alderman Dowd.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

City Administrator:

- Good to have Mayor Kleckler back.

Tourism Director, Melinda Jones:

Request for Road closures:

1. Approval to close E 2nd Street from Avenue A to Wood Avenue on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for Taste of Fiesta.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the street closure of E 2nd Street from Avenue A to Wood Avenue on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and second by Alderwoman Arduini.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

2. Approval to close E. 2nd Street from Avenue A to Wood Avenue on Friday, September 25, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. for the Taco Throwdown.

A motion was made by Alderman Dowd to approve the closure of E. 2nd Street from Avenue A to Wood Avenue on Friday, September 25, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for Taco Throwdown and second by Alderman Stahr.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

City Attorney:

None

City Departments:

Chief Sommers stated that the Fire Department will be at Taco Throwdown giving away fire prevention items.

Alderman Reports / Committee Chairman Requests

A motion was made by Alderman Dowd to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from QP Testing, 15941 S. Harlem Ave #222, Tinley Park, IL 60477 for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Electric System Support / Substation Inspections, Substation Training, Meter Training and Relay Support in the amount of \$63,760.00 and second by Alderman Searing.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Dowd to approve the Recommendation from the Utility Committee to approve the quote from Hupp ToyotaLift, 4821 Tremont Ave, Davenport, IZ 52807 for a new Toyota Forklift in the amount of \$103,959.00 and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the Recommendation from the Ordinance / License / Personnel / Safety Committee to update Section XII. Social media use and participation by Employees of the City of Rock Falls Personnel Policy Manual with the updated Social Media Policy passed and second by Alderwoman Byrd.

Vote 6 aye, 1- abstain (Doane), motion carried.

Alderpersons welcomed Mayor Kleckler back.

Alderspersons also thanked Melinda, staff and volunteers for Art in the Park event, very nice event.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kleckler thanked Alderman Stahr for stepping in while he was recovering. His procedure was to have been an in and out procedure but ended up being a 60 day out of the office. Thanked everyone for all they did while he was out of the office.

Fiesta Day Parade, September 19, 2026, be at the Fire Station by noon to ride in the parade.

September 3, 2026, Ribbon cutting at 24/7 Fitness for their remodel.

September 3, 2026, Open House at the Chamber's office.

Adjournment

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

Vote via voice, all approved (6:40 p.m.)

Pamela Martinez

Pamela Martinez, City Clerk