

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 November 18, 2025, 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, Byrd, Doane, Dowd, Stahr, Arduini, and Sobottka. In addition, Attorney Matt Cole, Tim Zollinger and City Administrator Robbin Blackert were present. Absent: Alderman Wangelin

Audience request:

1. Rock Falls Optimist Club – 2026 Optimist Calendar – Tom Starr and Jim Wiemken presented information about the 2026 Optimist Calendar and cost remains the same \$5.00. Sales of Calendar helps to support projects, youth and community.
2. Sauk Valley Community College – Impact Program updates – Kenneth Burn gave an update on the impact of the Impact Program for students of Rock Falls High School. Over 9,000 hours of community service have been completed in 3 ½ years with 174 students from Rock Falls High School. Fall of 2026 will be the first set of students to enter SVCC free of charge because of this program.

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

1. Hometown Holidays – Road Closures
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve the road closures for Hometown Holidays and second by Alderwoman Byrd.
Vote via voice, all approved, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda items 1-2 were read aloud by City Clerk Pam Martinez.

1. Approval of minutes of the November 4, 2025, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of bills as presented.

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

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Ordinance for 2nd Reading and Adoption:

1. Ordinance 2025-2714 – Amending Certain Provisions of the Rock Falls Municipal Code Relating to Appointed Positions

A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Ordinance 2025-2714 – Amending Certain Provisions of the Rock Falls Municipal Code Relating to Appointed Positions for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 4 aye, 3 noes (Doane, Dowd and Arduini), (Alderman Wangelin absent counts as no) Tie-Breaker vote - Mayor Kleckler vote no. Motion did not pass.

2. Ordinance 2025-2715 – Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy Ordinance
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Ordinance 2025-2715 – Fiscal Year Tax Levy Ordinance for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman Bryd.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
3. Ordinance 2025-2716 – Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$5,300,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Ordinance 2025-2716 - Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$5,300,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017 for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
4. Ordinance 2025-2717 – Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$2,115,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Ordinance 2025-2717 - Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$2,115,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016 for second reading and adoption and second by Alderman Dowd.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
5. Ordinance 2025-2718 – Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$9,200,000 General Obligation Bonds (Electric System Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018A
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Ordinance 2025-2718 - Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$9,200,000 General Obligation Bonds (Electric System Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018A for second reading and adoption and second by Alderman Dowd
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
6. Ordinance 2025-2719 – Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$1,200,000 General Obligation Bonds (Waterworks System Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018B
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Ordinance 2025-2719 - Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$1,200,000 General Obligation Bonds (Waterworks System Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018B for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.
7. Ordinance 2025-2720 – Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$1,200,000 General Obligation Bonds (Sewerage System Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018C
A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Ordinance 2025-2720 - Ordinance Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2025 to Pay Debt Service on \$1,200,000 General Obligation Bonds (Sewerage System Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018C for second reading and adoption and second by Alderwoman McKanna.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2025-940 – Resolution Granting Real Estate Tax Abatement (Ready Lab)
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to approve Resolution 2025-940 – Resolution Granting Real Estate Tax Abatement (Ready Lab) and second by Alderman Dowd.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

2. Resolution 2025-941 – Resolution Transferring Jurisdiction and Control of Real Property to the Industrial Development Commission (200 W 2nd Street).

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sobottka to approve Resolution 2025-941 – Resolution Transferring Jurisdiction and Control of Real Property to the Industrial Development Commission (200 W 2nd Street) and second by Alderman Stahr.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Rock Falls Tourism – Melinda Jones:

1. Review of 2025 Tourism Events:
Melinda presented City Council with a review of all events for 2025 and the ones that are coming up. The season ended with 73 sponsors.

City Administrator:

City Administrator Blackert gave an update on 11th Street Bridge – Grant is for \$1,800,000.00 and bid came in for \$1,700,000.00

City Administrator Blackert gave a statement on the outcome of the trial.

City Attorney:

None

City Departments:

None

Alderman Reports / Committee Chairman Requests

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the Recommendation from the Public Works/Public Property Committee to allow the Rock Falls Chamber of commerce to adjust the Community Building Rental Rates and the Chamber of Commerce’s monthly management fee and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 6 aye, 1 no (Doane), motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Byrd to approve the Recommendation from the Public Works/Public Property Committee to approve Snow Angel Program in the City of Rock Falls and second by Alderman Dowd.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Bryd to approve the Recommendation from the Public Works/Public Property Committee to support the IDOT project of installing a turn lane on W 2nd Street and to draft a Letter of Support to IDOT and second by Alderwoman Sobottka.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried.

Mayor’s Report:

None.

Executive Session:

1. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of:
 - a. Litigation – Section 2(c)(11) – Pending, Probable or imminent litigation
A motion was made by Alderwoman McKanna to move into Executive Session and second by Alderwoman Arduini.
Vote 7 aye, motion carried. (6:20 p.m.)

Any Action taken from Executive Session:

None

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

Vote via voice, all approved (6:51 p.m.)

Pamela Martinez

Pamela Martinez, City Clerk