

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
May 4, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at the hour of 6:30 p.m., May 4, 2004 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor Edward M. Mulvaney.

Roll Call:

City Clerk William B. Wescott, called the roll, present were Mayor Mulvaney, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton.

Approval of Minutes/ Payment of Bills:

Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2004 ,April 26, 2004 and the following bills for payment: Tourism \$38.76, General Fund \$145,153.53, ESDA \$507.62, Electric O&M \$307,979.17, Sewer Revenue O&M 20,115.72, Water Revenue O&M \$23,547.48, Garbage revenue \$244.07, Industrial Development (-) \$330.00, Employee Group Health Insurance \$67,169.73, Tobacco Grant \$150.00, DUI Fund \$146.80, Drug Fund \$26.86, Customer Utility Deposits \$328.36 and IMRF/Social Security \$4,371.02. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Interview Selection Committee:

The Mayor asked that Alderman Searing Chairman of the Personnel Committee to report on the selection process for the position of Electric Utilities Director. There were a total of 7 final candidates that were interviewed. The committee was pleased with the caliber of candidates that had applied for the position. Following review of the applications submitted and the interview of the candidates, it is the **recommendation of the selection committee to offer the position of Electric Utilities Director to Mr. Paul A. Jakubczak. Motion was made by Alderman Blanton and seconded by Alderman Searing to hire Mr. Jakubczak effective 24 May 2004. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.**

Mayor Mulvaney welcomed Mr. Jakubczak to the City of Rock Falls, Mr. Jakubczak spoke briefly to the council and thanked them for the vote of confidence and stated he looks forward to getting started in his position and meeting with everyone on an individual basis.

Audience Request:

Pam Erby, Chairman of the Rock Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau spoke to the Council, informing them that at the April 22, 2004 monthly Board meeting of the RFCVB a unanimous vote was taken to request the City of Rock Falls to consider amending the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance. The request is to increase the current tax rate from 3% to 5% (maximum allowed by the State of Illinois). She told the Council that taxing bodies within a four contiguous county area are all collecting the maximum 5%. The request is being made to help alleviate some of the lost funding that will occur due to proposed cuts for the tourism industry from the Illinois Governors office. With the increase, the RFVCB would be guaranteed approximately the same amount in

dollars collected today and secondly, the City would have the amount of administrative fees increased by approximately \$10,000. The RFCVB additionally feels strongly that 75% of the administrative fees should be utilized solely for the purpose of funding Public Property Projects of the City's choice. Council members also received copies of the proposed Budget for the RFCVB which reflect increased revenues that would be available as a result of the tax rate increase. **Motion by Alderman Blanton and seconded by Alderman Searing to make the amended change in the Ordinance to reflect the request of 5%. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.**

Representatives from the Illinois National Guard were present regarding current facilities, needs and future projects. Col Gary Widener, Director of Facilities Development spoke to the Council during a presentation about a variety of issues including a historical look at the Illinois National Guard Facilities here in Rock Falls, the economic impact that the Guard Unit has on the Rock Falls area and specifically, the need to work with the City of Rock Falls in the acquisition of approximately 3 acres of undeveloped land in the Rock Falls Industrial Park for a parking & equipment area for the 1644th Transportation Company. The Col told the Council that other Illinois communities have donated land to ensure their local National Guard unit has adequate facilities to support its soldiers. Currently there is not nor will there be in the immediate future sufficient open land for a parking area adjacent to the armory. The council was informed that the 1644th currently has vehicle/equipment currently stored at Marseilles Training area approximately 100 miles away because of inadequate storage facilities. Previously the City and the National Guard had entered into an agreement for the purchase of 3 acres in the Industrial Park for a price of \$17,500. The City Council ultimately rejected the purchase.

Under the direction of Governor Blagojevich directives calling on state agencies to consolidate operations wherever possible to save money and increase efficiencies. Co Widener stated that looking long-term, if inadequacies in the Rock Falls Armory are not remedied, the Guard might ultimately have to consider consolidating at another location in the State. They request that the City of Rock Falls re-examine the Guards initiative to acquire the land needed to provide adequate parking and storage for the 1644th Transportation Company so that all unit equipment can be consolidated at a location closer to the armory. **Motion by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Hand to send this matter to the Public Utilities Committee and the Industrial Park Commission for consideration. A discussion followed identifying (2) two lots #19-#20 in Subdivision #2 behind the Metal Spinners building as potential locations for the parking area. The combined acreage of the two lots is close to the 3 acres desired. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.**

Correspondence/Resolution/Proclamations

Motion by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Hand to approve a Proclamation designating Saturday, May 15, 2004 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in Rock Falls. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Stachowiak and seconded by Alderman Folsom to approve a Proclamation designating May 8, 2004, "Letter Carrier Food Drive Day". Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Alderman Stachowiak and seconded by Alderman Blanton to approve a Proclamation designating May 2004 as FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH in Rock Falls. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion by Alderman Stachowiak and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve a Proclamation designating May 2004 as MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH in Rock Falls. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemeir, Straub, hand, Charnas, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Request from Mr. R. Gerken for zoning changes for lots 38, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45 in Benchmark Phase II to be referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals/Plan Commission for review and recommendation. **Motion by** Alderman Blanton and seconded by Alderman Folsom to honor the request. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Ordinances for Approval:

Motion by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Hand to approve Amendments to Sections 15-159,15-166,15-168,15-183,15-185,15-185.5. City Attorney Reese addressed the Council concerning recommendations he had sent to the Ordinance Committee concerning several of these amendments. He wondered whether or not the recommendations had been considered and if not, why? Following further discussion, **the maker and second to the motion changed the motion** and requested that all of the amendments be sent back to the Ordinance Committee for the purpose of consideration to Mr. Reese comments. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Department Head Reports:

Wastewater Treatment Supt. – Mr. Cox addressed the Council in regards to problems at the plant in regards to PBR No. 1 which is scheduled for repairs this week and has previously been approved. Repairs are now needed on PBR No. 2. These repairs are considered to be Emergency Repairs, thus the bidding of the repairs can be waived. Mr. Cox request authority to spend no more than \$22,500 to make the necessary repairs. The repairs have been tentatively scheduled for the 1st week in June 2004. **Motion by** Alderman Straub and seconded by Alderman Blanton **to authorize the repairs under the emergency provision thusly waiving the bid process** for an amount not to exceed \$22,500. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Administrators Report:

City Administrator Downey spoke in reference to a request from the City Clerk, regarding the closing of all the City Hall offices from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm daily for lunch. Due to the lay-offs that are occurring at City Hall it will be more customer oriented to make this move, as one office covering for another due to vacations, sickness etc. is no longer feasible during these time. This would be done for a 90 day trial basis initially, and if there is not overwhelming complaints it would become permanent. **Motion by** Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Folsom to approve the recommendation. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

The remainder of Mr. Downey's comments can be viewed in Attachment (A), City Administrators Report-May 4th.

Community Affairs:

Christian Tscheschlok, Exec. Director of the RFCDC spoke to the Council members about work that is continuing on getting another source for grocery purchases in the community, foods initiative project, Data base project which is currently at 50% completion and lastly the current Capital Investment Drive that is underway for the RFCDC.

Appointments/Resignations:

Mayor Mulvaney requested approval of his appointments for the standing committee members and Chairman, effective immediately through April 30, 2005:

Public Utilities

(Sewer, Electric, Water, Street, Public Property)

Dave Blanton – Chairman
Mike Straub
Chad Charnas
Dave Hand
Mark Searing

Personnel

(Personnel/Public Safety)
Mark Searing – Chairman
Dave Blanton
Pat Stachowiak
Mike Straub

Finance/Insurance

Glen Kuhlemier – Chairman
Chad Charnas
Dave Hand

License/Ordinance

Dave Hand – Chairman
Lee Folsom
Pat Stachowiak

Other Committees

Investment

Mayor City Treasure
City Clerk City Admin.
Deputy Clerk Ald. Kuhlemier

Negotiations

Mayor City Attorney
City Admin. Ald. Kuhlemier

Motion by Alderman Charnas and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the appointments and Chairman as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Alderman/Committee Reports:

Alderman Hand (Ordinance/License) request approval of the Carnival License for the Wilson Family Shows. **Motion by** Alderman Charnas and seconded by Alderman Searing for approval of the License. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried.**

Alderman Hand called an Ordinance/License Committee meeting for May 13, 2004 at 6:30 pm in the Mayors Office area of the Municipal Complex.

Alderman Blanton called for a Public Utilities Committee meeting for May 12, 2004 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Mulvaney reported to the Council on the IML Legislative Report regarding Lobbying efforts on April 21, 2004. He also reminded the Council of the joint meeting of the City Council and the Coloma Township Board scheduled for May 19, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Coloma Township Offices at 1200 Prophetstown Road, Rock Falls.

Executive Session:

Mayor Mulvaney request the Council enter into Executive Session for the purposes of:

1. Collective Bargaining Matters – Section 2 (c) (2)
2. Personnel Matters – Section 2 (c) (1)
3. Pending Litigation – Section 2 (c) (11)

Motion by Alderman Blanton and seconded by Alderman Searing to enter into executive session as noted above. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, **motion carried. Into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m...**

Motion by Alderman Blanton and seconded by Alderman Charnas to return to regular session. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.** ** (Alderman Folsom left during executive session) into regular session at 8:18 p.m...

Motion was made by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Blanton to extend the current Department Heads and Assistants contracts till June 1, 2004. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion by Alderman Searing and seconded by Alderman Blanton to give Jim Simpson, Assistant to the Electrical Department Director, forty-five (45) days notice of termination pursuant to (Section 9. Termination) of his contract. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Motion to adjourn made by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Charnas. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Approved May 18, 2004

William B. Wescott, City Clerk