

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN  
OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS  
September 7, 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., September 7, 2004 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor Edward M. Mulvaney.

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

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

A Proclamation was read into the record, acknowledging the Rock Falls Little League Senior Softball Team, which represented the City of Rock Falls, the State of Illinois and the Central Region States at the World Series Softball Tournament in Delaware. The Team finished the tournament with a record of 21 wins and only 5 losses. For there outstanding season, **the City Council declared September 9, 2004 as Little League Senior Softball Day in the City of Rock Falls.** A motion by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Kuhlemier to approve the Proclamation as read. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Folsom voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried.**

Manager Dave Peugh and several of the members of the team addressed the Council and thanked the community for there support this past season. Mgr. Peugh presented a plaque to Mayor Mulvaney that the team received for there participation in the World Series Tournament. The plaque was accepted and will be displayed permanently in the Council chambers.

**AUDIENCE REQUESTS:**

Mr. Rod Kleckler of 219 Avenue C and Tina Smith of 701 Lincoln Street, Rock Falls addressed the Council verbalizing there concerns as parents of students that are now crossing at Dixon Avenue & Avenue C without a crossing guard present. They were concerned that a parent had volunteered and was in fact assisting children across the street and then was told by the Police that he could not legally perform such a function. Mr. Downey explained that there was a concern on the part of the City's Liability Insurance carrier about the provisions under which the volunteers worked. The Insurance would not provide any protection via liability or workers compensation for the people performing such services. It stated by Mr. Kleckler, that the speed limit of 30 mph along this stretch of road is seldom adhered to and that the Police should conduct increased speed checks and sends a message to the public that they must slow down in this area. Following a lengthy discussion it was recommended that this issue be turned over to the Ordinance Committee for considerations and possible solutions to resolve the situation and provide for the well being of the children that need to cross on school days. The City has no legal obligation to provide crossing guards and due to budget constraints was forced to reduce the crossing guards this year by (3) positions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A **motion** was made by Alderman Charnas and second by Alderman Hand to approve the following items under the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Regular Session Minutes of 8.17.04.
2. Payment of Bills as presented
3. Resolution for maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code (Seal Coat and Bituminous Maintenance Projects)
4. First reading of proposed changes to the Rock Falls Municipal Code, Section 16-362, 16-341, 15-275, 8-626 and 8-846.
5. Resolution adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the system of preparing for and responding to disaster incidents.
6. Resolution requesting the Assistance and Participation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in identifying Conditions on a Certain Property. (following appropriate changes by City Attorney Reese)
7. LIHEAP Vendor Agreement with Tri-County Opportunities Council
8. Proclamation declaring September 12-28, 2004 as Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Week.

Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Folsom voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Building Department - Mr. Whiting reported that work has begun on Crowne Hill Subdivision. He also made the Council aware of a potential dangerous situation on the property located between 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Lindy Avenue on Route 30. Parts of the structure to the rear of the property have collapsed in. He had pictures which were distributed for the Councils review. Following a discussion in which the City Attorney presented the options available to the Council to take in this regard, Mr. Whiting was directed to get the information to Mr. Reese and he would be drafting a letter to sent to the property owners requesting actions be taken to rectify the situation. Further informational reports will be reported to the Council.

Electric Department – Mr. Jakubczak reported that repairs on the hydro plant continue and parts are to be in by mid to late October. Additionally he reported that work on the Centennial Park substation would be done in October.

Fire Chief – Chief Larson reported that a joint training session involving the Electric Department, Sterling and Rock Falls Fire Departments and CGH EMS would be conducted on Pole top Rescue. He additionally reported that they have an intern through the Whiteside County Vocational School in the Department this semester.

Police Department- No report

Street Department – Mr. White reports that his crews are engaged in striping of the streets and will be doing yearly crack filing as well.

Wastewater Treatment – Mr. Cox requested the Council to approve an emergency request for repairs of a section of the sewer line on Avenue A. He has contacted VISISEWER and they are available to perform the slip lining project and opening of the laterals off the line for a price of approximately \$13,000. He will get a contract for review. **Motion** by Alderman Straub and second by Alderman Kuhlemier to approve the emergency repairs. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Folsom voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried.**

Additionally Mr. Cox reported that the Vacu-truck is back in service following repairs and that the catch basin repair projects in the City for this year are just about completed.

Water – Mr. Padilla reported on the many projects currently underway and planned for the month of October. One of the major projects is a joint effort with the electrical department to perform the first ever bore and placement of a 6” line. If this project goes as anticipated, future joint efforts which will result in cost savings will be planned.

#### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

Mr. Downey reported on a variety of topics which are included as part of attachment A under his written report. Two items to highlight are 1) in regards to Section 15-26 – Liability of the City Municipal Code. This section has been recommended for removal by the Ordinance Committee, however, it is found to tie into many other components of the City’s operations including policing and utility billing. Has a result, the Ordinance Committee is being asked to review it again and take the appropriate action before the Council. 2) Mr. Downey presented information concerning a “letter of interest” from LCC International, Inc. (U.S. Cellular) to enter into a lease agreement for a parcel of land, site number 597360-Lift Station, E. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Falls, Illinois. The purpose of which would be to lease a 60’x60’ area for placement of a cell tower. Following a discussion by the Council, Mr. Downey will report back to the council at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with information concerning the rates for leasing quoted versus what is consistent in other communities.

#### **INFORMATION AND UPDATES**

Mr. Heilsburg, City Engineer reported on the progress of the roadwork currently underway. It is anticipated that all work will be completed within the next 2 weeks as scheduled.

#### **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:**

A representative from the Chamber of Commerce reported on the Chamber sponsored Circus which is coming to town. This yearly sponsored event will be held on the Giesons Motor sports property located at 800 E. Rock Falls Road on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>. Two shows will be presented at 2 pm & 7pm.

Christian Tscheschlok, Executive Director of the RFCDC presented a variety of information concerning activities currently being worked on by the Development group. He also spoke to the continued efforts to secure a grocery store for our community. Both the RFCDC and the City are hopeful to be able to report some positive news in the near future.

Additionally, Mr. Tscheschlok reported that there are very reputable develop firms looking at the Rock Falls area and is very optimistic concerning future projects of economic development in our immediate area and will be making a presentation at the September 27<sup>th</sup> C.O.W. Meeting.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/MEMBERS REQUEST:**

Public Utilities/Public Property – No Report

Finance/Insurance – Mr. Kuhlemier reminded the Council of the upcoming Fiesta activities scheduled for the weekend of September 17-19. This is truly a (2) two community celebration and encourages all citizens to get out and support the many activities.

Ordinance/License – Mr. Hand called a committee meeting for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building. He additionally, reminded everyone of the annual Fall Fest to be held at Lawrence Park on September 25-26.

Personnel/Public Safety – No Report

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Mulvaney presented a brief report on the continued efforts to clean up the nuisance properties in the City. He commended the Police Department for there diligences in continuing to seek out properties which are not up to standards.

**Motion** to adjourn by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Stachowiak. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Kuhlemier, Straub, Charnas, Hand and Folsom vote aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried.**

Approved September 21, 2004

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk