

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND THE ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
January 4, 2005**

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., January 4, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor Edward M. Mulvaney.

City Clerk William Wescott, called the roll call, present were Mayor Mulvaney, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton. Absent were Alderman Stachowiak and Straub. City Clerk Wescott informed the Council of the death of Alderman Stachowiak's mother.

Audience Request: None

Consent Agenda:

A **motion** by Alderman Hand and second by Alderman Searing to approve Consent Agenda items 1-3 as presented.

1. Approval of Regular Session Minutes from December 21, 2004
2. Payment of Bills as printed.
3. Proclamation declaring January 17, 2005 as Martin Luther King Day in Rock Falls

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

Department Heads:

Building Dept. – Mr. Whiting was asked by the Mayor about the progress being made on the property at 803 Ave. A. Mr. Whiting stated that Mr. Reese's office is still reviewing the documents necessary to take the next step. Mr. Reese stated he will check on the status of the documents being worked on by Mr. Sanders.

Electric- Mr. Jakubczak briefed the Council on the progress being made at the Hydro Plant. The shroud is being installed and it is hoped to have a crane in on Thursday or Friday and have water running thru Unit 2 by the middle of next week.

Mr. Jakubczak also told the Council that he had participated in a teleconference call with the IMUA (Illinois Municipal Utility Association) and (4) four other municipals concerning the re-write of the current Telecommunications Act in the State of Illinois, which is due to expire June 30, 2005. It is their intent of the IMUA to keep on top of actions being taken by the State Legislators, so that they can be Pro-active, as opposed to Re-active. As more information becomes available he will keep the Council informed.

Fire Chief – Chief Larson reported that the last of the PPE (personal protective equipment) obtained thru a FEMA grant has arrived. In addition, the City experienced no structure fires during the Holidays.

Water- Mr. Padilla reported that the employees of the Department will be going thru the commercial and industrial business for the next couple of months. They will be inspecting the backflow and anti-siphoning devices. This is done bi-annually.

City Engineer- Mr. Frickenstein reported to the Council he is working on the General Maintenance cost proposals and should have them available for the next meeting.

Community Affairs:

Christian Tscheschlok, Executive Director of the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation addressed the Council about the status of the Economic Development IMS Website/Database Development Project they have been working on. The target date is March 1 for completion of this project. Other items of presentation:

- RFCDC and Tincher & Associates will have the Riverfront's first project mapped out and cash flows identified in a "developer booklet" completed by January 14th.
- Szatan and Associated was selected as the site location consultant for the development of the marketing strategy for the I-88 corridor. The Sauk Valley Economic Development Partnership (including the RFCDC) will be working on this.
- RFCDC will be working with the Industrial Development Corporation and the City to evaluate the condition of the Industrial Park, and work together on issues which will enhance the recruitment efforts.
- Grocery Store project continues to see interest from (2) two main prospects. Discussions will resume with greater vigor in January.
- An all volunteer team will be hosting a member connect open house event next Wednesday at the RFCDC between 5-7 p.m. The Council is cordially invited.

Mr. Keith Grell, Chairman of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Board presented the following information. 1) There will be a retirement gathering, recognizing out going Executive Director, Linda Thurm for her 22 years of service on January 7th from 3-6 p.m. at the Community Building, 2) a business after hours gathering will be held at the Complete Wellness Center, 110 E. Lynn Blvd., Sterling, Illinois from 5-6 p.m. on January 13th.

Mr. Grell also informed the Council that this years Hometown Holidays were a big success and thanked the City Department for there assistance in making it so.

Council Committee Reports/Member Requests:

Ordinance/License Committee- Mr. Hand called a committee meeting for January 13, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Public Utilities/Public Property Committee- Mr. Blanton called a committee meeting for January 11, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Blanton wanted the Council to know that Mr. Jakubzack represents the City on the Illinois Municipal Utility Association Telecommunications Committee.

Personnel/Public Safety Committee- Mr. Searing announced a Committee meeting for January 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Complex.

Finance/Insurance Committee- Mr. Kuhlemier reported to the Council on the out comes of the December 30, 2004 meeting of the Finance/Insurance Committee and presented several recommendations from the Committee for Council consideration:

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Searing to move the current balances in the Electric Alt. Ref. B&I, acct. 20-21-1033 \$71,753.55, Electric Alt. Ref. Reserve, acct. 20-21-1035 \$420.54, Electric Depreciation & Repair, acct. 20-25-1036 \$652.50, Electric Rate Stabilization acct. 20-25-1038 \$700.33 to the Electric Operations and Maintenance acct. 20-20-1025. These accounts were all required to be maintained during the life of the Hydro Plant Bonding. Since that Bond issue has been paid off the accounts can be closed and the remaining funding transferred. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Charnas to raise the cost of garbage bags effective February 1, 2005 to reflect the following changes. Small bags will cost .70 per bag/\$7.00 for a roll of 10, and large bags will cost \$1.40 per bag/\$7.00 for a roll of 5. These cost parallel the costs of the same bags in Sterling. It is hoped that this will help to balance the Garbage fund and avoid the need to increase the flat rate charges. Upon roll call, Alderman Blanton, Hand, Charnas, Kuhlemier and Searing voted aye. Alderman Folsom voted nay. Vote 5 ayes- 1 nay, **motion carried**.

Mr. Kuhlemier reported that the projected deficit for the next fiscal year currently stands at approximately \$177,123. The exact number is at this time not known dependent on several actions that may or may not be taken by the Council. In working towards reduction of that deficit, the following recommendations are presented:

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Charnas requesting to increase the current Simplified Telecommunications Tax from 3% to 5%. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas voted aye. Alderman Hand and Folsom voted nay. Vote 4 ayes and 2 nays. ****As a result of the vote taken, the Mayor is asked to vote due to at least half of the elected Alderman voting in favor of the issue, but a majority being required for passage. Mayor Mulvaney when called voted aye. Vote is 5-2, motion carried.**

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Charnas requesting to increase the current Municipal Gas Tax from 3% to 5%. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier and Charnas voted aye. Alderman Hand, Blanton and Folsom voted nay. Vote 3 ayes – 3 nays, **motion defeated**.

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Blanton to amend Resolution R2003-454 to change the beginning date of the repayments of an outstanding loan from the General Fund to the Electric Utility, to reflect repayments to begin in the fiscal year 2007-08 instead of 2005-06. All other aspects of the original Resolution shall remain the same. Upon roll call, Alderman Blanton, Folsom, Hand, Charnas, Kuhlemier and Searing voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Searing to direct Speer Financial to prepare a schedule of repayment for the refinancing of the Fire Truck for the next Council meeting for the Councils consideration and approval or rejection. Upon roll call, Alderman Blanton, Folsom, Hand, Charnas, Kuhlemier and Searing voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

Mr. Kuhlemier on behalf of the Finance Committee ask the Ordinance Committee to review the building permit fees, liquor license fees and tobacco license fees and make recommendations at the January 18th Council meeting. Additionally, Mr. Kuhlemier requested that discussion of future funding for the RFCDC in future contracts be discussed at the January 24th Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mr. Kuhlemier addressed the Council on a concern in regards to the local Post Office and the City's possible loss of identity. The postal cancellation machine, which identifies mail as postmarked from Rock Falls apparently, broke down sometime ago. It was sent away for repairs but apparently is not going to be replaced. This sets up several negative situations for the citizens Rock Falls. First, any mail that normal is deposited in the Post Office or the drop boxes which are addressed for delivery in Rock Falls will first need to be collected and taken to another Postal Center in Rockford, Palatine or Carol Stream and then returned for delivery within the community. Secondly, Rock Falls is no longer recognized as a community within the postal system for machine cancellation. A **motion** was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Folsom to have the mayor write a letter objecting to the loss of our identity with the removal of the canceling machine to the Postal authorities, with copies directed to our Elected Officials including Congressman Dennis Hastert. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

Mayor's Request:

The Mayor thanked the members of the Finance Committee for there work on exploring the revenues and making recommendations that would bring us closer to a balanced budget. Unfortunately the current fiscal picture remains uncertain and he reminds the Council that they have a fiduciary responsibility to balance the budget and operate the City. It is well known that a large number of our community is living on fixed incomes as our members of the Council. But at the same time, they expect and deserve to have city services available to them. He asked the Council to not let the fact that this is an Election year get in the way of the decision making process. Several of the Aldermen took offense at this suggestion.

A **motion** was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Blanton to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

Approved January 18, 2005

William B. Wescott, City Clerk

