

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND THE ALDERMAN OF  
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS  
January 18, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and the Alderman of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at the hour of 6:30 p.m., January 18, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor Edward M. Mulvaney.

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

**Audience Requests:** None

**Ordinances: First Reading**

- Amendment to Section 8-246 (b) of the Municipal Code – Tobacco License Fees
- Amendment to Section 15-52 – Meter damage; Disconnection During Non-Occupancy
- Amendment to Section 15-108 – Presence of Owner at Initial Supply of Service
- Amendment to Section 15-109 – Emergency Disconnection or Discontinuance of Supply; Exoneration of the City
- Amendment to Section 15-127 – Code Compliance

The above recommended Amendments to the said Ordinances are available for review in the City Clerk's Office. Hearing no or having no objections raised, the Amendments shall be passed at the next meeting of the City Council 1 February 2005.

**Consent Agenda:**

**A motion** by Alderman Hand and second by Alderman Searing to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2 as presented:

1. Approval of Regular Session Minutes from January 4, 2005 with noted corrections:
  - Page 1 -Under Building Department, correct address from 803 Ave A to 812 Ave. A
  - Page 3 – Insert Alderman Blanton as voting aye to the motion on increasing of the Telecommunications Tax.
  - Page 4 – Remove the last line in the first paragraph under Mayor's Request, and replace with, One Alderman voiced a response at this suggestion.

Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye, Alderman Straub abstained from the vote. Vote 5 ayes, 1 abstention, **motion carried**

**Department Head Reports:**

**Building Department** – Mr. Whiting reported to the Council on the following items:

- A new subdivision is scheduled for construction near the intersection of Buell Road and Knief Road south of the City. Since the area in question is within the 1.5 mile radius of the City, we shall have an opportunity to review the plans.
- The Crowne Hills Estates Project now has the gas line hook-up completed and is ready for the occupancy certificates to be issued.
- Informed the Council that the posting of the property located at 812 Avenue A, Rock Falls declared a nuisance will be official posted on January 19, 2005.

**City Council Minutes**  
**January 18, 2005**  
**Page 2**

- A list of properties along West Route 30 which will require fencing is being formulated and will be presented at the February 2 meeting of the Council.

**Electric Department** – Mr. Jakubczak reported to the Council on the following:

- The Hydro Plant project has had some unforeseen delays due to problems with the control panel. A representative of the company is due in to assist with resolving the problems so that the Hydro can get back on line.
- A brief explanation of the problems which caused the electrical outage on Friday night was presented. Com Ed experienced problems with one of their supply lines which in turn caused our S. 14<sup>th</sup> avenue and Centennial Substations to go down. City crews were able to bypass the problems by switching our lines. Power to our customers was restored in approximately 1.5 hours as a result. Mayor Mulvaney added that Mr. Jim Fox from Com Ed had contacted him and praised the efforts of our Electric Department in helping to rectify the problems in an expedite manner.

**Police Department-** Chief Perez requested the Council authorize him to apply for a grant through the Illinois Liquor Control Commission for \$1320. This money would be used to conduct Tobacco Compliance checks at local establishments. **A motion** by Alderman Blanton and second by Alderman Searing to approve the grant submission request made by Chief Perez. Upon roll call, Alderman Blanton, Folsom, hand, Straub, Kuhlemier and Searing voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried.**

**Water Department** – Mr. Padilla reported on the following:

- The SCADA phone lines went down this past weekend. At this time problems are being looked into so that repairs can be facilitated in a prompt fashion.
- A service line leak off of a main on 1<sup>st</sup> avenue was repaired today. It was first thought that it may be the main itself which was the problem. Repairs were facilitated in a very short amount of time. Mr. Padilla praised the other Departments in the City for their assistance in remedying this problem in a cooperative effort. A Boil Order is in effect for sections of East 5<sup>th</sup> Street and East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Samples taken should be back by Thursday.

**Wastewater Department** – Mr. Cox reported that they hope to get out into the fields and complete the Sewer line extension from the Christian Center on Prophetstown Road to Antec Road.

**Administrators Report** – Mr. Downey reported to the Council of the following items:

- Coloma Township Road Commissioner, Gerald Bristol had contacted Mr. Downey about a road project on Haskell Avenue that they are going to be working on this spring. He inquired as to whether or not the City would like to come onboard with this project and include our portion of Haskell Avenue (beginning at the intersection of Haskell Avenue and Dixon Avenue proceeding north approximately 370 linear feet). The approximate cost to the City would be \$8976.00 which includes engineering cost. Mr. Downey reported that there are monies in the MFT accounts to cover these costs. A discussion ensued as to how the City would pay the cost, either directly to the Township or have the costs of our portion identified separately by the contractor thus eliminating any possible conflict with the use of MFT funds for the project. It was proposed by Mr. Downey that we could pay the Contractor separately to avoid any conflict.

**City Council Minutes**  
**January 18, 2005**  
**Page 3**

The question was asked, as to whether or not Haskell Avenue was one of the Streets on our schedule of repairs. Mr. White, Supt. of the Street Department reported no, however, it is an excellent opportunity to participate in this joint project and be able to have the project completed by sharing the costs. He told that Council members who were not aware that when some of the residence on Haskell annexed into the City years ago, the service cuts were given temporary repairs at the time. This project would complete the work that remains. Mr. Downey intends to forward a letter to the residence of Haskell Avenue that are not in the City and ask them if they would like to consider connecting to City Services. A deadline of February 14<sup>th</sup> was set, as to having response back from residence along Haskell Avenue. The idea would be to facilitate this work prior to the road repairs being completed. With the thought that some may give consideration, Mr. Downey is going to have the Public Utilities Committee put the issue of cost related to extending the Water and Sewer to Avalon Avenue on there agenda for there next meeting on February 2, 2005.

**A motion** was made by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to approve the expenditures from the MFT Funds for the cities portion of the project with the following conditions:

1. Prior to acceptance of the Bids for work to be completed, Coloma Township will advise the City of Rock Falls as to there costs, to insure that it does not exceed the estimate of \$8976.00 by an amount greater that 10%. This would allow the City to withdraw should cost exceed projections.

2. There should be (2) two separate contracts and signature pages, identifying the City's cost separate from the Coloma Townships costs to insure compliance for usage of MFT funds for the project.

Roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Folsom, Hand and Blanton voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried.**

- Mr. Downey presented to the Council information from the Planning and Zoning Committees recent Public Hearing held on January 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss changes to Sections 16-75, 16-103, 16-123 and 16-143 of the City Code. It is the findings of the Planning and Zoning Committee to recommend to the City Council to change Ordinances named above to allow accessory structures to not exceed one and half stories (1 ½) stories in height or twenty feet.

**A motion** was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Searing to accept the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and to send the issue to the Ordinance Committee to draft the changes. Upon roll call, Alderman Folsom, Blanton, Hand, Searing, Kuhlemier and Straub voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried.**

- Mr. Downey informed the Council that he will be attending the Illinois City Mangers Winter Conference to be held in Moline, Illinois on February 24-25.
- The Planning and Zoning Committee is going to begin televising its meeting on Channel 5 and will be converting to a paperless agenda. It is the hopes that in the near future we will be able to convert all of the City's Committees and Council Meeting packets to a paperless agenda format.

**City Council Minutes**  
**January 18, 2005**  
**Page 4**

Mayor Mulvaney inquired into the status of the Scanlon property in the Industrial Park. Mr. Downey stated that he has sent Mr. Scanlon several letters, as well as, spoke to him directly. Mr. Scanlon wanted to install v-shaped curbs in the roadway as opposed to the standard curb and gutter. The Industrial Commission has responded to that request by stating no, the roadwork and curbs need to be compliant with the rest of the park. Mr. Downey and Mr. Reese are going to discuss the issue and move forward with action to resolve this issue.

**Council Committee Reports/Member Requests:**

**Personnel/Public Safety** – Mr. Searing reported that the Committee meeting scheduled for 20 January has been cancelled due to a conflict with the Tourism meeting. The Meeting has been rescheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Finance/Insurance** – Mr. Kuhlemier asked Mr. Downey to present information from the Speer Financial Group in regards to the possible refinancing of the 2001 Fire Truck. In an attempt to relieve the burden on the General Fund, the Finance Committee had Speer Finance prepare a schedule of refinancing of the current Fire Truck Lease. The current Lease has established payments of approximately \$48,000 per year thru 2011. Under the proposed refinancing, a savings of approximately \$75,000 would be achieved during the next (2) years, payment schedule would be extended to 2020 with an additional \$94,000 dollars in additional cost over the term of the agreement. Following a discussion by the Alderman, **a motion** was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and second by Alderman Hand to proceed with the refinancing of the Fire Truck as outlined in the proposal presented by Speer Financial. Upon roll call, Alderman Blanton, Folsom, Hand, Straub, Kuhlemier and Searing voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

**Public Utilities** – Mr. Blanton announced that the Committee would meet on February 2, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**Ordinance/License** – Mr. Hand presented the following recommendations from the Ordinance Committee

- **Motion** to direct the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance for the proposed changes in the Liquor License Structure, seconded by Alderman Blanton. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried**.
- **Motion** to direct the City Administrator to prepare and file a formal petition to the Planning and Zoning Commission to request that all properties in the downtown area which are currently M-1 and M-2 and the Riverfront Properties changed to B-2, seconded by Alderman Folsom. Upon roll call, Alderman Blanton, Folsom, Hand, Straub, Kuhlemier and Searing voted aye. Vote, 6 ayes, **motion carried**.

**City Council Minutes**  
**January 18, 2005**  
**Page 5**

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Mulvaney told the council that he was in receipt of the necessary information from Alderman Kuhlemier to draft a response to the receipt loss of our local Post Office to provide machine cancellation of the mail. He will be drafting and forwarding the correspondence to the U. S. Postal Service, as well as, our U.S. Senators and Representatives.

Mayor Mulvaney shared with the Council a letter that he and City Administrator Downey had received addressing a recent inspection of the Dixon Avenue and East 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges. The Inspection was conducted by the Whiteside County Highway Department and reports the following on the current status of the structures:

- Dixon Avenue – The curbs need to be watched for continued deterioration and exposure of rebar, the center line deck joint continues to deteriorate with the bottom of the joint showing exposure of the rebar, remainder of the deck bottom is in generally good shape at this time.
- East 11<sup>th</sup> Street – The deck surface is showing distress with deterioration of the piers, deterioration is noted on the deck bottoms right side.

Mr. Downey told the Council that he has been waiting for these reports, so that he can address Whiteside County about FAU and BURP Grant funds. A future project would be to wrap up bridge repairs with the overhaul of Dixon Avenue from First Avenue to the Bridge. The Council will be kept informed.

**A motion** to adjourn was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Searing. Upon roll call, Alderman Searing, Kuhlemier, Straub, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 6 ayes, **motion carried** (7:10 p.m.),

Approved February 1, 2005

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk