

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
March 1, 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., March 1, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor Edward M. Mulvaney.

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

Audience Request:

American Business Women's Association submitted an application for a raffle license. Due to the short turn around time and the requirement to coordinate with the Illinois Department of Revenue, this item could not be placed on the consent agenda. **Motion** by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Blanton to approve the Raffle License application. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton vote aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Ordinances:

Revised Liquor Ordinance was to be voted upon for adoption. Mr. Reese, City Attorney told the Council that he needed to complete some additional research on the proposed changes suggested by the Ordinance Committee to insure that it passes the provisions contained within the Liquor Code. His request is to table the Ordinance until the next meeting. **Motion** by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to table the item. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Consent Agenda:

A **motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4 as presented:

1. Approval of Minutes from Adjourned Council Meeting of 02.03.05
2. Approval of Minutes from Regular Session of 02.15.05
3. Approval of Bills as printed
4. Grant permission for the Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycees to hold a Bucket Brigade on June 18, 2005

Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried.**

Department Head Reports:

Electric Director - Mr. Jakubczak reported on several items:

1. We are moving forward on the Broadband project with the next committee meeting scheduled for March 17, 2005. At the present time some problems are being worked out with the IEMCA.
2. SB 499 Anti- Municipal Broadband Bill- it is an adjustment to the original amendment to the Telecommunications Bill which is set to expire at the end of June 2005. There has been positive communication between the Municipalities and our members of the Legislature. Letters of support directed to our Legislatures are netting positive feedback and support for the Municipalities stance. That being allowed the opportunity to provide Broadband services.

Water Superintendent – Mr. Padilla reported to the Council on Section 15-34 Additional charges payment: addition to bill. The recommendations being presented were brought before the Ordinance Committee at there meeting on 02.23.05, and Mr. Padilla was asked to make the presentation this evening before any action. A **motion** was made by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Blanton to approve the changes to Section 15-34 as presented, with additional charges as deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Water Superintendent. Upon roll call Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Administrators Report:

Mr. Downey informed the Council about the recent lowering of the sign which identifies the entrance to the Industrial Park off of Route 30. He is requesting on behalf of the Industrial Development Commission the waiver of sign permit since the IDC is any extension of the City. **Motion** by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the request. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Mr. Downey also told the Council that he had communications with the Developers and the County reference to the Wolf and Sharp Knief Road Addition. The original maps and records of the County were incorrect in identifying the southern most city properties. As a result, the property in question which the Council had discussed at the February 15th Council meeting was intact outside of the 1.5 mile radius of the City Limits. Mr. Downey will send a letter to the County advising them of the same.

Information and Updates:

City Clerk Wescott briefed the Council on the following items:

1. Kathleen Cox, mother of Wastewater Superintendent Ed Cox passed away in Boston Massachusetts. Mr. Cox requested that in lieu of flowers anyone wishing to make a donation in his mother's memory could do so through the American Cancer Society.
2. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's mobile Community Service Office will be in Rock Falls on Thursday, March 10, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Community Youth Building.
3. Mr. Wescott informed the Council that this Council meeting was the last for Donna Newman of the Sauk Valley News. Donna has been covering our Council meetings as well as, providing news reporting on events here in the City for sometime. He wanted to publicly thank her for her work on behalf of the City and wish her well in the future. Members of the Council echoed the sentiments.

Mr. Reese briefed the Council on the following items:

1. He had sent out to everyone an updated report on HB 1128 which had been introduced by Representative Jerry Mitchell. There was opposition to this bill from the onset. Representative Mitchell was surprised however, at the close vote that was taken. The Bill was defeated, however, Representative Mitchell is going to continue working with these groups and submit another Bill geared at giving municipalities more power to regulate animals.
2. He advised the Council that they needed to adopt an Ordinance to amend (2) two sections of the City Code. The two sections are 5-71 and 5-295 which have to do with appeals of actions taken by the Building Official with regards to building code or property code issues. When we adopted the BOCA codes, it provides for a Board of Appeals made up of people with engineering degrees or backgrounds. The City does not have the resources to have that expertise available. As a result, by approving these amendments the Council will become the authority to hear such appeals. A **motion** was made by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to adopt the amendments. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Community Affairs:

Christian Tscheschlok, Executive Director of the RFCDC spoke to the Council about a recent legislative trip to Springfield made by the Sauk Valley Partners in Economic Development. The group spoke to Legislators about (5) five key issues:

1. I-88 corridor
2. Issues with the Thompson Prison
3. State of Education in Illinois
4. Presented a supplemental document on the State Budget
5. Riverfront Projects, specifically the Dam project between Sterling-Rock Falls.

Mr. Tscheschlok, also paid special thanks to Mayor Mulvaney, Administrator Downey, Alderman Stachowiak, Alderman Charnas and City Attorney Reese for their participation and support of the Rock River Auction. It is thought that this event will clear \$16,000 which will be used towards the Riverfront Concert in September.

Mr. Tscheschlok has been asked to serve on the Board of the Northwest Illinois Entrepreneurship Center being formulated by the Department of Commerce. Additionally, the RFCDC is working on a reverse trade mission with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Christian is involved with the planning of the project which will look at bringing foreign investments into this region. We have some wonderful opportunities with Global 3 coming into the area.

The question was brought concerning progress on a potential grocery store for our community. Christian told the Council that he and Mr. Downey continue to work towards securing a new provider, but there are many issues to be dealt with. The most current prospect wants to build if they come, so work is being done on putting together some land for possible development. One of the biggest problems is that rumors flow throughout the City concerning Wal-Mart coming in with a Super Center. He wanted to make it clear to everyone that as of this time no one is aware of that development. Mr. Downey suggested the possibility of an Ad Hoc committee to go and meet with some of those businesses which have showed an interest in the area and put some weight into the process.

Appointments/Resignations:

Mayor Mulvaney request the re-appointment of Alderman Hand to complete the (1) one year term (April 30, 2006) he is already in and Alderman Blanton to complete the (2) two year term (April 30, 2007) that the Mayor currently serves in for the Rock Falls Community and Youth Building Committee. **Motion made** by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the appointments as requested. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas and Folsom voted aye. Alderman Hand and Blanton abstained. Vote 5 ayes, 2 abstentions, **motion carried**.

Council Committee Reports/Members Requests:

Alderman Stachowiak – Informed the Council that on March 8th, **Christian Tscheschlok will be receiving the 2004 “Man of the Year” Award for the Peace Corps Fellow Program** at a special ceremony in Peoria, Illinois. Council members offered there congratulations on the recognition.

Alderman Searing – Personnel/Public Safety Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Alderman Charnas – Reported that on 20 February 2005 he attended an event sponsored by the YWCA, “Cross Cultural Celebration of Women”. He stated that it was an outstanding look into the strength that the women in this community possess. He encouraged Alderman to attend the program next year as he found it very rewarding.

Alderman Hand – Ordinance/License Committee will be meeting on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council chambers.

Alderman Blanton – Public Utilities/Public Property Committee meeting 2 March at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Mulvaney shared with the Council a letter that he received from a citizen who resides across the street from 809 Avenue A. The letter outlined many concerns, raging from health and safety to possible illegal activities. The Mayor requested that the Building inspector and Police look into these matters and beginning taking action as is necessary.

Executive Session:

Mayor Mulvaney request a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing Personnel matters – Section 2 (c) (1). **Motion** made by Alderman Charnas and seconded by Alderman Searing. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**, entered into executive session at 7:08 p.m...

Motion by Alderman Blanton and seconded by Alderman Searing to return to regular session at 7:19 p.m... Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Searing to approve the changes to the (4) four Department Head contracts as recommended. Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, Hand, Folsom and Blanton. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Stachowiak at 7:21 p.m... Upon roll call, Alderman Stachowiak, Searing, Kuhlemier, Charnas, hand, Folsom and Blanton. Vote 7 ayes, **motion carried**.

William B. Wescott, City Clerk