

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF  
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS  
SEPTEMBER 6, 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., September 6, 2005 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David H. Blanton with the pledge of allegiance being recited.

City Clerk William Wescott called roll, Present were mayor Blanton, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thrum. Also in attendance at the meeting were City Administrator Richard Downey and City Attorney James Reese.

**Audience Requests:**

Mrs. Penny Duncan and Mr. Daniel Wells representing the Whiteside County Health Department were present to address the Council, concerning consideration by the Council for a wavier of building permit fees, pole attachment and hook up charges for water, sewer and electricity for property located at 1308 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Rock Falls. The total amount of the fees being considered is \$1,923.00. The Construction in question is a federally qualified Health Clinic which will serve residents of Whiteside County and the surrounding medically under-served areas. Motion: Searing/ Second: Thurm/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.

Mindy Tesky representing Rock Falls High School requested the Council approve this years Homecoming Parade through the streets of the City as requested on Thursday, September 22, 2005 beginning at 5:30 p.m... Motion: Kuhlemier/ Second: Searing/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.

Mr. Mark Mayfield, 1213 W. Route 30, Rock Falls, addressed the Council in regards to the necessity for dumpster permits for residences that are located in an area that is zoned commercially. Following his address, he was advised to appear at the next meeting of the Ordinance Committee to present his concerns, he agreed to the recommendation.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve Minutes from Regular Session of August 16, 2005
2. Approval of Bill as printed
3. Approval of Proclamation for "Chamber of Commerce Week", September 12-16, 2005.
4. Approval of Proclamation for "Pain Awareness month", September 2005.
5. Approval of Proclamations honoring Rock Falls Little League 9-10 year old Girls, 12-13 year old Girls and 16-17 year old Girls Softball Teams as "Illinois State Champions" 2005.

Motion: Hand      Second: Arduini      Vote: 8 ayes      Motion Carried

**Executive Session:**

Request Executive Session for Litigation – Section 2(c) (11) – Pending, probable or imminent litigation.  
Motion: Hand / Second: Arduini / Vote: 8 ayes/Motion Carried (7:00 p.m.)

### **Ordinance: First Reading**

The Following Ordinances were presented for First reading:

1. **Amendment to Section 5-168. Connection to Electrical Distribution System-Required.**
2. **Amendment to Section 15-427. Garbage Flat Rate**
3. **Amendment to Section 16-72. Nonconforming Uses.**

City Attorney Reese requested the removal of item #3 on the Consent agenda for further review and clarification. Mayor Blanton requests Motion for approval with item # 3 removed from consideration. Motion: Hand / Second: Arduini/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried

### **Community Affairs:**

Mr. Tscheschlok, Executive Director of the RFCDC spoke to the Council concerning the importance of working towards a site/ready development plan. This is an important step in the economic development area in that it would drastically cut down on the turn around time in getting and providing the information that is sought from those who look at our community for growth and development. A review of our current TIF district, infrastructure extension and development plans, land available for annexation, etc. are a few of the areas that need to be addressed. The current turn around time and in some instances lack of answers hinder the presentation process to those developers who come to look at the Rock Falls area.

**Gayla Kolb spoke to the Council on behalf of the RFCDC's upcoming "Rock the River" Concert and requested the approval of a Special Liquor License for the event on September 10, 2005. Motion: Kuhlemier / Second: Snow / Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

Doug Wiersema, President-CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce provided the Council with a listing of upcoming events. He then addressed the Council about beginning a dialogue between the Mayor and City Council, as well as, the Community Improvement Committee of the Chamber. This group would work towards a City Wide Clean-up Campaign to begin next spring (April-May). This endeavor would have the goal of going throughout the City and ridding it of trash, old cars, etc. At the same time City wide garage sales would be promoted to encourage homeowners to look at their properties and take steps to rid them of unwanted or unused debris. Mr. Wiersema will be contacting the Mayor to discuss this in more detail.

**Mr. Wiersema requested the Council pass a Resolution for their annual Hometown Holidays Parade on Saturday, November 19, 2005 and take the appropriate actions necessary to inform the Illinois Department of Transportation since a portion of the Parade route involves temporary closure of Route 40, a State Highway in the City of Rock Falls.**

**Motion: Kuhlemier / Second: Snow / Vote: 8 ayes / Motion Carried**

### **Department Heads:**

Building Department- Mr. Whiting reported on (5) new residential and (3) new commercial constructions underway in the City.

Electric Department- Mr. Jakubczak requested the Council approve a (5) five year extension of the current maintenance agreement with Altorfer to include a \$500 deductible for generator units 1 & 2 at the Avenue A station at a cost of \$15, 200.00 each. Motion: Hand / Second: Arduini / Vote: 8 ayes / Motion Carried.

Mr. Jakubczak requested that any Council member wishing to attend the State Energy Association Conference in Springfield on October 21-22, 2005 let him know by Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> so that reservations can be secured.

**Fire Department:** Deputy Chief Gary Cook requested the Council's approval of the appointment for (4) new Paid-on- Call Firefighters effective immediately. Those being recommended are: Nathan Hartman, Mark Linboom, Roger Carlson and Terry Williams. Motion: Snow /Second: Searing /Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.

Deputy Chief Cook requested the Councils approval for making application for a Fire Prevention Grant to be utilized for Code enforcement purposes. Motion: Hand Second: Snow/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.

Deputy Chief Cook requested permission for the Department to donate 51 (50 foot sections of 2 ½") and 6 (50 foot sections of 1 ½") to the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office to be made available to rural Departments in the State who are having problems maintaining there equipment due to funding. By participating in thiis program, as opposed to selling the old hose outright, the City of Rock Falls is exempt from liability issues concerning the reliability of the hose.

Motion: Hand/ Second: Arduini/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.

Deputy Chief Cook who serves as the President of MABAS Division 30, reported to the Council on the response by Departments of Division 30, as well as, the surrounding Counties to the State of Illinois request for Firefighters, apparatus and other needed equipment to the Southern States area following Hurricane Katrina. He presented an overview of the call up system and the availability of resources throughout the State of Illinois.

Street Department: Mr. White briefed the Council on a new repair process for our roads that was applied at selected sites in the City. The system is called "Ace in the Hole". The preliminary results look good; we will monitor the areas to see how the process stands up.

Wastewater Department: Mr. Cox briefed the Council on the recent **Bid proposals for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lift Station Modifications. (2) Bidders; Brown Construction and Schmitt Plumbing participated. Brown Construction was the lowest bidder at a cost of \$ \$27,200.00. Mr. Cox formally request acceptance of Brown Construction for the project. Motion: Searing/ Second: Snow/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

Water Department: Mr. Downey reported for Mr. Padilla who was called away from the meeting. Mr. Padilla requests the formation of a **Recharge Area management Team Committee**. This Committee is a requirement of the Illinois E.P.A. for maintaining the vulnerability waiver by Special Exception Permit. **Mr. Padilla requests the appointment of Alderman Thurm and Chad Charnas, as well as, himself to this Committee. The appointments will be for a term running 09/05 – 09/07. Motion: Kuhlemier/ Second: Arduini/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

#### **Administrators Report:**

Mr. Downey request authorization from to attend the **HOME Program Design Forum seminar** in Springfield, Illinois on September 27-28, at reasonable costs being presented by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. This seminar will provide necessary information for the City to make application for funding under the Illinois Housing Development Authority. **Motion: Hand/ Second: Snow/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

### Information and Updates:

City Clerk Wescott reported on the upcoming IBC Board Meeting in Utica, Illinois on September 16, 2005. This meeting will provide the City with information necessary to begin the Insurance Renewal process for the coming year. Mr. Wescott presented correspondence from Mr. Richard Gebhardt, Supervisor of Sterling Township regarding a request for a donation of \$500 from the City of Rock Falls to help defray the cost of a walk-in freezer for the Sauk Valley Food bank. **The item was referred to the Finance/Insurance committee for consideration and recommendation. Motion: Vandersnick/ Second: Snow/ Vote 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

### Appointments/Resignations

Mayor Blanton asked the Council for the approval of the following appointments and or re-appointments to the following Commissions:

- **Appointment of Doug Wiersema to the Industrial Development Commission (08.30.05-08.30.07), Motion: Searing / Second: Vandersnick/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**
- **Re-appointment of Alderman Mark Searing and Alderman Glen Kuhlemier to the Industrial Development Commission, (4.30.05-4.30.07) Motion: Vandersnick / Second: Snow/ Vote: 6 ayes-2 abstains (Searing/Kuhlemier)/ Motion Carried.**
- **Re-appointment of Carol Fitzgerald to the Police-Fire Commission (06.30.05-06.30.07) Motion: Vandersnick/ Second: Snow/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

### Council Committee Reports/ Members Requests:

Electric Committee – Special Committee Mtg. – September 8, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Complex

Finance/Insurance Committee – Special Committee Mtg. – September 7, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Complex

Public Works Committee – Special Committee Meeting, September 29, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Complex

- Special Committee Mtg., October 6, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Complex

Chairman Searing requested approval of Engineering Agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Assoc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan. Following a short discussion, the item was tabled until the next meeting of the Council.

Personnel/Safety – Special Committee Mtg. – September 28, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Complex.

Ordinance/License Committee – Special Committee Mtg. – September 15, 2005, 6:00 p.m., Municipal Complex

Public Property Committee – Special Committee Mtg. – September 27, 2005, 6:00 p.m., Municipal Complex

### Alderman Reports:

Alderman Hand requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Lance Carter, local musician and Band Leader who passed away tragically in a house fire. Mr. Carter directed many local bands and Community Orchestras and served as the musical coordinator for the Louie Bellson Heritage Days Celebration.

**Mayor's Report:**

Reported on recent attendance at several meetings in the area including, River Front Development in Dixon, as well as, IDNR meeting hosted by the local RFCDC.

Mayor Blanton reported to the Council that the Northern Illinois Mayor's Association will be meeting on September 15, 2005 in Ashton, Illinois. Any of the Alderman that would like to attend, should contact the mayor's Office so that reservations can be secured.

Mayor Blanton announced a meeting of the Police-Fire Committee on September 19, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Complex.

**Executive Session:**

Request Executive Session for Collective Bargaining – Section 2(c)(2)- Collective negotiating matters and deliberations. **Motion: Hand/ Second: Folsom/ Vote 8 ayes/ Motion Carried (8:20 p.m.)**

Move to return to Regular Session – Motion: Searing/ Second: Vandersnick/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried. (9:21 p.m.)

**Adjournment:**

Next Regular scheduled Meeting – September 20, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Complex. **Motion: Folsom/ Second: Hand/ Vote: 8 ayes/ Motion Carried.**

Approved: September 20, 2005

---

William B. Wescott, City Clerk

