

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

**January 17, 2006**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Rock Falls was called to order at 6:30 p.m., January 17, 2006 in Rock Falls, Illinois by Mayor David H. Blanton.

City Clerk, William B. Wescott called the roll, present were Mayor Blanton, Alderman Vandersnick, Searing, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm. (Quorum present)

## **Audience Request:**

**Mayor Blanton began the meeting by recognizing on behalf of the City of Rock Falls and its Citizens, Mr. Ed Wagner, who recently passed away. Ed's wife Patricia and daughter's Jodi and Cathy were present. The following was read into the official records of the City:**

**Ed Wagner chose Rock Falls as his home nearly (40) Forty years ago and in turn Rock Falls chose Ed. Mayor Blanton in reflection noted that he had first met Ed in early 1970 and through the years, had the opportunity and pleasure of working with him on a number of projects.**

**He served his community in numerous ways; as Treasurer of the Rock Falls Little League, Rock Falls Police Pension Board, was inspirational on the Rock Falls Library KIDSS Committee, an active member and (2) two time President of the Rock Falls Optimist Club, Treasurer of the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation, served on the Whiteside County Zoning Board, served on the Finance Committee of St. Andrews Church, served on the St. Andrews School Board and was a member of the St. Andrews Choir.**

**But perhaps, his role as St. Nick not only gave him his greatest pleasure, but also brought so much pleasure to both young and old alike. The Mayor in reflection spoke of the last time that he had seen Ed. Ed had attended the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation all day retreat. The next morning, while Ed was preparing for that all important Holiday, he became ill and was admitted to the hospital.**

**It was once said, "What a man does, tells us what he is." It goes without saying, that we all know what kind of man, Ed Wagner was. The entire Community of Rock Falls will miss him.**

**Mayor Blanton then presented to Ed's wife Patricia and children , a Key to City, as a token of the City's gratitude for all that Ed Wagner had done in his lifetime, to make the City of Rock Falls a better place.**

## **Consent Agenda:**

1. Approval of January 3, 2006 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of Bills as printed.
3. Approval of Bucket Brigade Requests:
  - a) Sterling-Rock Falls Elks club – April 1, 2006
  - b) American Red Cross – April 15, 2006
  - c) Rock Falls American Legion – May 27, 2006
  - d) Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycees – June 24, 2006
  - e) Rock Falls VFW – August 19, 2006
  - f) Rock Falls Kiwanis – September 16, 2006
  - g) Rock Falls Lions Club – October 7, 2006

**Motion: Hand**

**Second: Arduini**

**Vote: 8 ayes, Motion carried.**

**Department Heads:**

Building Department – Mr. Whiting shared with the Council that (2) Building Occupancy Permits will soon be delivered for the following projects, Whiteside County Dental Clinic and Heartland Control Building.

Electric – Mr. Jakubczak updated the Council on the LED light project which we had received a grant for. The intersection lights at Route 30 & 40, Route 30 & 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street are nearly completed. He will be applying for another grant to complete the other intersections next year.

The Hydro plant is still under going repairs. The “runner hub” is due to be delivered tomorrow (01.18.06) and installation will begin. It is hoped that if all goes to schedule that the hydro plant will be up and running around the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February.

**Administrators Report:**

Mr. Downey shared several items with the Council:

- a) Letter of clarification of the authorized use of Channel 5 from Insight Communications.
- b) Illinois Housing Development Authority Workshop will be held in Peoria on February 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in regards to our SOFOOR grant. (Mr. Downey –Deputy Clerk Conklin-Mayor Blanton will be attending) Sessions will be only ½ day each day.
- c) Announced that the Planning and Zoning Committee would like to conduct a Public Hearing on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in regards to A-1 Zoning. Mr. Reese, City Attorney advised the Council that they should pass a motion authorizing this action.

**Motion: Kuhlemier      Second: Searing      Vote: 8 ayes, Motion Carried**

- d) A Brownfields Teleconference will be monitored in Mr. Downey’s Office on January 19, 2006 from 09:30-11:00 a.m.. Anyone that would like to attend is welcome. The topic will be EPA Region 5 Brownfields Assessment Grant Mentoring and Q&A Session.

**Community Affairs:**

Mr. Tscheschlok, Executive Director of the RFCDC spoke to the Council on several issues:

- a) Presented a copy of a recent Area Development Corporate Survey which provides insight into what corporations and other business entities’ are seeking when looking for site locations in regards to economic development.
- b) Unveiled the new RFCDC Newsletter that will soon be distributed.
- c) Announced with apologies of short notice, a meeting at the RFCDC main office, tomorrow January 18, 2006 at 0900 hours. At the meeting will be Nancy Mulchaey and Janet Mathesis.

Mr. Wiersema, Director of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Council about the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet of the Chamber to be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Deer Valley Country Club. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 p.m... The Keynote Speaker will be Mr. Dan Kolb, Professional Pitcher and member of the Milwaukee Brewers. Reservations should be forwarded to the Chamber office.

**Information and Updates:**

City Clerk Wescott informed the Council members of an upcoming NIMS 700 Class to be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 from 7-9 p.m., at the Dixon Rural Fire Station in Dixon, Illinois. This class is mandatory for elected officials to insure NIMS compliance by the deadline date of October 2006. Members are urged to contact the Clerks Office for registration. The course is free.

City Attorney Reese addressed the Council on a pending class action lawsuit that has been filed against the FORD Motor Company in regards to the Crown Victoria style police units. The City of Rock Falls vehicles are of this type. A question has been raised in regards to these vehicles and unsafe conditions. The Council has (2) two options at this time. First, join the lawsuit, at a cost of \$400.00, however, any municipalities joining the lawsuit will not be able to purchase the police packaged Crown Victoria from Ford in the future. Secondly, do nothing and continue our practices of purchase as we have. Following a short discussion, the matter was referred to the Police-Fire Committee for considerations and recommendations.

**Council Committee Reports/Member Requests:**

Electric Committee Mtg. – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 6:30 p.m.  
Finance/insurance Mtg. – January 18, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.  
Investment Committee Mtg. – January 18, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.  
Ordinance/License Committee Mtg. – January 26, 2006 – 6:00 p.m.  
Personnel/Safety Committee Mtg. – January 26, 2006 – 7:15 p.m.  
Public Works Committee – Chairman Searing requested Council action on the following (2) two items, as requested, by the Committee:

- a) Approval of Repairs to the City Street Sweeper in the Street Department. Repairs will be rendered by Standard Equipment Company at a cost of \$18,115.88. This is the first overhaul and major repairs conducted on this unit since it was placed into service.

**Motion: Searing                      Second: Snow                      Vote: 8 ayes, Motion carried**

- b) Refer to the Ordinance/License committee a request for an increase in Water rates at an average of 3% on the basic charge each year thru the end of 2009. Ordinance Committee will then bring the request to the Council for consideration.

**Motion: Searing                      Second: Snow                      Vote: 8 ayes, Motion carried.**

**Alderman Reports:**

Alderman Kuhlemier inquired of the City Attorney, the statues governing demolition of homes within the municipality that have sustained major fire damage and remain vacant. Following a short discussion, Mr. Whiting, Building inspector will review the new building/maintenance codes and report at the next Council meeting.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Blanton shared with the Council that he had received a letter from Mr. Doug Wiersema, Rock Falls Chamber Director, thanking both the Electrical and Street Department Employee's for all of there assistance during the Holiday Season.

Mayor Blanton informed the Council that the monthly meeting of the Northern Illinois Mayors Association will be held January 19<sup>th</sup> I Seward, Illinois. Any of the Council members that would like to attend should contact the Mayor.

**Executive Session:**

Mayor Blanton requested the Council enter into Executive Session for the following purposes:

1. Collective Bargaining Matters – Section 2 ( C ) (2)
2. Litigation – Pending, probable or imminent litigation – Section (c )(11)

**Motion: Thurm                      Second: Searing                      Vote: 8 ayes, Motion carried (7:13 p.m.)**

Motion to return to Open Session: (7:22 p.m.)

**Motion: Arduini                      Second: Snow                      Vote: 8 ayes, Motion carried.**

Motion for adjournment:

**Motion: Folsom                      Second: Snow                      Vote: 8 ayes, Motion carried**

Approved: February 7, 2006

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk