

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
May 1, 2007**

Mayor David H. Blanton called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Rock falls to order at the hour of 6:30 p.m., May 2, 2007 in Rock Falls, Illinois.

City Clerk, William Wescott called the roll, present were Mayor Blanton, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm.

Audience Requests:

Cal Degroot and Michelle Vandersnick representing local postal employees addressed the Council in regards to the upcoming National Association of Letter Carriers, Letter Carrier Food Drive scheduled for May 12, 2007. In 2006, the Sterling and Rock Falls Post Offices together collected 28,488 pounds of food, nearly 14.5 tons for distribution within the 10 food pantries that serve the area. Motion made by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to approve the Proclamation recognizing the efforts of the postal Carriers. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Community Affairs:

Joan Hermes, representing the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Council about upcoming events. The primary focus is on the Area Wide Garage Sale scheduled for May 5, 2007. Approximately 150 individuals and or groups have signed up for participation.

Christian Tscheschlok, Executive Director or the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation addressed the Council for the last time, as he will be leaving his post and moving to Wisconsin to accept another position. Highlights of accomplishments during his six (6) years as Director include; \$14.4 million dollars in E-Zone improvements, creation of 270 new jobs and retention of 360 others, \$47,000 in grants from (USDA, ATT, etc.) and \$200,000 provided from local private-public cooperative effort. The Mayor and Council members thanked Christian for his service to the area and wished him success in his new endeavors. In conclusion, Christian stated that he would be forever thankful to the opportunity he was given here and will always have a special place in his heart for Rock Falls.

Committee Appointments:

The Mayor requested Council approval of an Ordinance No. 2007-2228, Section 2-76. Standing Committees. He wishes to add a new committee to the current standing committees of the Council, that being the Building Code Committee. Following a brief discussion, motion by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Hand to approve the Ordinance as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Blanton presented his appointments for 2007-2008 Standing Committees and re-appointments to the Industrial Development Committee, Planning & Zoning, Enterprise Zone and the Police-Fire Commission with expiration dates and term. The foregoing appointments can be found on (Attachment A and B) to these minutes. Motion made by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Arduini to accept the 2007-2008 Standing Committees and re-appoints to the other committees as outline on Attachment A and B. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Ordinances: First Reading

1. Ordinance 2007-2229; Section 5-126 Construction Permit was presented for review, motion by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Vandersnick to accept first reading. During discussion, City Attorney Reese, offered several changes that would benefit this Ordinance in the event of future changes in the International Code, which is the basis for the permit cost increases. He will have the changes for review prior to final vote at the second reading. The maker and secondary of the motion concur with the stipulation. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm vote aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of April 17, 2007 Council Minutes
2. Approval of Bills as printed.

Motion made by Alderman Vandernick and seconded by Alderman Thurm to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandernick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Administrators Report:

Mr. Downey spoke to the Council about both the Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation grant program (SFOOR). This is the second year for that grant, this year we will be doing (4) four homes. It is hoped that next year, the grant will be expanded to a 2-year program. Mr. Downey also spoke briefly on the Small rental property grant, which is a 2-year program and will allow us to do 8 units. In addition, he informed the Council that the Brownfield testing has been completed at the Reliant Site and we are waiting to receive the final report. The PA site is complete as well and clean up may begin this summer at that location.

Information and Updates:

City Clerk Wescott shared with the Council information concerning the recent death of Jennie Huling, City Clerk for the City of Morrison, Illinois. Jennie was a mentor to so many area Clerks and was recognized for her work, not only within the Northern Illinois Municipal Clerks Association, but the State and National Associations as well. A moment of silence was observed in Jennie's honor.

Brian Frickenstein, City Engineer brought two items before the Council for consideration and action:

1. 2007 Street Project bid opening took place on April 24, 2007 with two (2) bids received. Twin City Construction, Sterling, Ill. \$88,458.00 and Northwest Illinois, Rock Falls, Ill \$90,450.00. Both bids came in below the Engineer's estimated cost of \$112,119.00. Following review of all of the bid information, it is the recommendation of Willett, Hofmann & Associates to award the contract to Twin City Construction for the amount presented. Motion made by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Thurm to accept the recommendation. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandernick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.
2. Word was received from the State of Illinois that following the bid letting for the W. 19th Street project scheduled for this Summer, the following bids were received; Northwest Illinois Construction LLC \$470,588.60, Martin & Company Excavating \$490,699.21, Twin City Construction Company \$497,777.70 and Fischer Excavating, Inc. \$535,509.88. A motion was made by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Hand to notify the State on the acceptance of the bid of Northwest Illinois Construction LLC for the price received. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandernick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Department Heads:

Fire Chief J. W. Larson presented two matters for the Councils consideration and action:

1. Presented vehicle bids for replacement of a 1994 Crown Victoria; Reynolds Ford Motor Company (2007 Ford Explorer \$20,699), Bettennaussen Dodge (2007 Durango 4x4 \$21,850), Ken Nelson Group (2007 GMC Envoy 4x4 \$22,909.48). Following short discussion, motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Thurm to accept the bid of Reynolds Ford Motor Company for \$20,699. Roll call, Alderman Vandernick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote, 8 ayes, motion carried.
2. Chief Larson requested permission from the Council to apply for a FEMA grant for \$76,100.00, which would require a 5% match of \$3805.00. The grant would be used to replace helmets and communication equipment both vehicular and portable. A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier and seconded by Alderman Folsom to authorize the submittal of the FEMA Grant Application. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandernick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Ted Padilla, Water Supt. spoke briefly to the Council about the recent Chlorine drill that was held to practice procedures at the plant and nearby Dillon School in the event of a Chlorine gas release. The drill allowed all of the agents participating an opportunity to review current policies and make upgrades where necessary. In addition, Mr. Padilla informed the Council that steps are currently underway to have the Water Supply Protection Area signage reposted that was removed following September 11th.

Paul Jakubczak, Electric Director provided the following:

1. Request authorization from the Council to purchase to inventory supply (3) three G&W switches from RESCO at a unit price of \$22,596.00 each for a total of \$67,788.00. Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Reitzel to authorize the purchase as requested. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.
2. Informed the Council that effective immediately anyone who needs J.U.L.I.E services should now call 811.
3. Requested the Council grant permission, for the Mayor to sign the documents for the acceptance of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant for \$9,795.00 to allow for upgrade for the LED lighting project. Motion by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Folsom to approve signature of documents for acceptance of the grant as requested. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Committee Reports & Meeting Dates:

Planning & Zoning will be holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers to hear a Variance request on a matter of lot width at 1410 8th Avenue, Rock Falls, Illinois.

Alderman Reports:

Alderman Kuhlemier spoke to the Council concerning the efforts of Bob and Audrey Bonnell who own and operate Bonnell Repair & Towing Inc., 400 1st Avenue, Rock Falls, Illinois. Over the past (7) years the Bonnell's have actively participated in the K.I.D.S.S building project, as well as, worked with the Library Board on other projects benefiting the Library. There business has served as a community collection point, where members of the community could drop off aluminum cans to be recycled and the proceeds going to the use for Library related projects. Recently the Bonnell's reached a milestone in that they have now raised over \$10,000.00 in there efforts. Mr. Kuhlemier recommended that the Council recognize the work that has been done by the Bonnells publicly.

Executive Session:

Mayor Blanton requests a motion to go into executive session for the following purpose:

1. Purchase or Lease of Real Estate – Section 2 (c) (5) and further requests that Ed Cox, Wastewater Supt., Brian Frickenstein, City Engineer and Mr. Ron Hoffman be included in the session.
2. Collective Bargaining – Section 2(c) (2)
3. Litigation (pending) – Section 2 (c) (11)

Motion made by Alderman Thurm and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to enter into executive session for the purposes identified and to include the individuals' named appropriately in the first session. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried. (In: 7: 32 p.m.)

Motion made by Alderman Hand and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to return to regular session. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried. (Out: 9:04 p.m.)

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Motion made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to adjourn. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 8 ayes, motion carried.

Minutes to be approved at the May 15, 2007 meeting.

William B. Wescott, City Clerk