

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS
March 20, 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., March 20, 2007 in Rock Falls, Illinois.

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

Mr. Allen McCaulley, Director of the University of Illinois Whiteside County Extension spoke to the Council and presented an informative presentation concerning the Extension Offices Local Government Education Tele-Institute Program, and encouraged participation by all local officials. In addition, he promoted a Community Forum, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at the Sterling Coliseum from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, which will introduce a new program, “Rural Partners Homeownership Initiative”. This program will identify a new way to provide new housing construction to lower income families through the Rural Partners Homeownership Initiative.

Ted Padilla, Water Department Supt. for the City of Rock Falls introduced Gene Johnston and Joe Behrens, members of the City Groundwater Committee who were present in support of a Proclamation being offered to recognize Ground Water Awareness month in April 2007. Clerk Wescott, read the Proclamation into the record. Alderman Kuhlemier made a motion to approve the same with Alderman Vandersnick seconding the motion. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

Dawn Handel, Vice Chair of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council and presented a listing of upcoming Chamber events, including the upcoming “Meet the Candidates Night” to be held in the Community Building on Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

Ordinance: Section 8-287, Restrictions on Issuance was presented to the Council for First Reading. Alderman Kuhlemier made a motion to accept and was seconded by Alderman Hand. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of March 6, 2007 Council Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of bills as printed
3. Resolution 2007-489; Authorizing Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Hometown Holidays Parade, Saturday, November 17, 2007.
4. Authorize Rock Falls American Legion to close Fourth Avenue between 7th Street and First Avenue on Sunday, May 13, 2007 from 9:00 am-5:00 pm for a Car/Truck/Bike Show.

Motion made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Reitzel to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.

City Administrator, Richard Downey addressed the Council on two issues requiring action:

1. Prior to demolition/clean up work this is to be done on the Reliant Site, an asbestos survey needs to be completed to determine the amount of asbestos that will have to be removed by a clean up contractor. Two firms were contacted and offered bids for the work outlined. The Wendler Group (\$9,495) and Terracon (\$15,200) were the firms making proposal for the work. A motion was made by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Thurm to refer this matter to Public Property for consideration and make recommendation to the Council at the April 3, 2007 scheduled meeting. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm. Motion carried, 7 ayes.
2. Introduced a request from Chairman Rick Turnroth of the Planning/Zoning Commission for the Council's direction in addressing the zoning and comprehensive plan issue of the city and additional funding to hire a consultant to accomplish this process. Mayor Blanton shared with the council that these issues were discussed in the recent retreat, and we are still in the process of tabulating information in regards to the direction that we want to go. He will plan on attending the next Planning/Zoning Meeting and sharing the current thoughts on that with the Committee.
3. Mr. Downey informed the Council that the City has been awarded a grant from IDA for 2007-2008 to fund the Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program totaling \$170,000.00. This will allow us to do (4) four homes at \$40,000each and receive \$10,000 for administrative costs. Applications are also being made available for the Small rental properties Landlord/Renters grant. Mr. Downey is going to send out a mailing to Landlords and Rental property owners in Rock Falls to provide more information concerning this program.

Brian Frickenstein, City Engineer reported that we are hoping to advertise for the 2007 road projects in the City in the paper next week and a bid opening date will be set at that time.

Ted Padilla, Water Supt. requested the authorization for the expenditure of funds to correct and upgrade the communications system on the Water Towers for a price not to exceed \$9,500.00. Motion made by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Folsom to authorize expenditures with spending cap announced. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

Mayor Blanton reported to the Council that Mark Searing, Building Inspector had successfully completed the International Code Council testing and is now a Certified Residential Building Inspector.

Mayor Blanton reported to the Council on the recent attendance of Alderman Hand, Alderman Arduini, Mr. Jakubczak and himself to the APPA National convention that was held in Washington, D.C. on March 12-15, 2007. During the conference, they had the opportunity to network with many contacts and came back with some excellent information and programming possibilities.

Mayor Blanton requested a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing Collective Bargaining Matters – Section 2 (c)(2) and further request that Chief J. W. Larson being included in the session. Motion by Alderman Arduini and seconded by Alderman Hand to enter into executive session for the purposes identified. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes. (In: 7:20 pm)

Motion to return to regular session made by Alderman Vandersnick and seconded by Alderman Thurm. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes, (Out: 7:30 pm)

City Attorney Reese recommended to the Council that a motion be made to authorize and direct the City Administrator to determine no later than April 30, 2007, whether or not the General Fund revenues will meet the target increase stated in Section 11.04 of the Collective Bargaining contract with the Rock Falls Fire Fighters Association Local No. 3291. In the event that the Revenues do not meet the target increase, that the City Administrator be directed to notify the IAFF that the City is electing to terminate the guarantee of no layoff for the final fiscal year of the current collective bargaining contract. Motion made by Alderman Reitzel and seconded by Alderman Thurm. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes.

Motion made by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Reitzel for adjournment of the meeting. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried, 7 ayes. (Out: 7:36 pm)

Approved by City Council on April 3, 2007.

William B. Wescott, City Clerk