

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF ROCK FALL

February 17, 2009

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

City Clerk, William B. Wescott, called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. Upon roll call, Mayor Blanton, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Thurm were present. Alderman Arduini was absent. City Administrator, Richard Downey and City Attorney Jim Reese were present.

Community Affairs:

Sandy Henrekin, Executive Director, of the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation spoke briefly and told the Council that she would be attending the International Council on Shopping Centers (ICSC) Conference in Chicago, Illinois on February 25-26, 2009.

Ordinance/First Reading:

1. 2009 – 2230; Section 9-171. Restricted Length Vehicle Parking – Compact Cars.

Motion for acceptance of First Reading, Alderman Snow, seconded Alderman Thurm. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve Council minutes of February 3, 2009.
2. Approve bills as presented.
3. Approve the materials proposal bids received for the 2009 General Maintenance as follows:
Bituminous Patching Mixture; Northwest Illinois Construction Co. (\$62.50/Ton) 200 Ton;
Bituminous Mixture, Complete; Northwest Illinois Construction Co. (\$56.50/Ton) 350 Ton;
Aggregate Surface Course, Type B; Fischer Excavating, (\$4.20/Ton) 1,200 Ton, No bids received for Fine aggregate (FA-6).
4. Approve recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission for a side yard variance, property located at 324 East 2nd Street, Rock Falls, Illinois; Owners Leslie/Paulette Funderberg.
5. Approve contractual agreement with TERRACON Consulting Engineers & Scientists, Bettendorf, Iowa to conduct an asbestos survey of the Reliant Fastener East Building grounds to determine if asbestos is present at locations outside of the structures. Contract Fees for services total \$4,019.00, Proposal No. 0708433.
6. Refer to the March 12, 2009 meeting of the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals, the petition filed, requesting rezoning of Real Estate from Whiteside County Housing Authority for real property located at 1801 4th Avenue, Rock Falls, Illinois from R-1 to B-1.

Department Heads:

Water – Mr. Padilla briefed the Council on the 2009 Public Water System Inspection Report from the IEPA reflecting a field inspection conducted February 5, 2009. The Environmental Protection Agency periodically conducts these evaluations to determine if the community water supply meets the requirements of the Illinois Pollution Control Board's public water supply rules, regulations, and related standards. Based on the documentation found in the inspection report, our water supply complies with all regulatory requirements. Mayor Blanton on behalf of the Council congratulated Mr. Padilla and all of the Water Department employees for their daily efforts to maintain our communities water supply system in such a professional manner.

Electric – Mr. Jakubczak requested the Council take action to pass an Ordinance, which will protect the City of Rock Falls against the potential adverse economic impact of FERC order 719 by precluding customers of the City’s Electric Utility from bidding demand resources into PJM markets. Under Illinois Law, the municipality has the exclusive right to provide electric services to its customers located both inside and outside the corporate limits. As a member of the IMEA (Illinois Municipal Electric Agency), we have existing power sales contracts pursuant to which the municipality has contracted to purchase all of the power and energy requirements for our electric system. As a safeguard in protection, all members of the IMEA will be taking action to pass an Ordinance of protection as outlined in the document. Motion to accept and approve on first passage, Ordinance No. 2009 – 2321 made by Alderman Hand, seconded Alderman Kuhlemier. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Vote 7 ayes, motion carried.

Information /Correspondence:

City Clerk Wescott read into the record the following letter received on February 13, 2009 from Alderman Daehle Reitzel in regards to the City’s proposed redevelopment project area:

Dear Mr. Wescott:

The City Council of the City of Rock Falls has made an initial determination that it desires to proceed with a proposed redevelopment project area under the tax increment financing provisions of the Illinois Municipal Code. I have determined that I own or hold an interest real property, which would be included within the proposed project area. As a result of such ownership, and the possible intention of the City of Rock Falls to proceed with establishment of that redevelopment project area, I am advising you that I will not participate in any vote on any matter pertaining to such redevelopment plan, project or area, and will refrain from communicating with any other members of the city Council or any employees of the City of Rock Falls concerning any matter pertaining that proposed redevelopment plan, project or area.

I would request that the remaining members of the City Council and the Mayor acknowledge receipt of this disclosure and enter such acknowledgement on the minute books of the City of Rock Falls.

Sincerely,
Daehle Reitzel, Alderman 1st Ward

The original letter received by the City Clerk will be maintained on file with the City and made part of the minutes of this meeting as attachment (A).

Motion by Alderman Vandersnick that the disclosure of Alderman Reitzel, pursuant to Section 5/11-74.4-4 of the Illinois Municipal Code, that he owns an interest in real estate which may be included in a proposed redevelopment project area be acknowledged and that interest and disclosure be entered in the minute books of the City, seconded by Alderman Snow. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye, Alderman Reitzel abstained. Vote 6 ayes, motion carried.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Blanton addressed the Council in regards to the following:

1. Shared with the Council the news of the passing of Luigi Paulino Alfredo Francesco Antonio Balassoni, known to us as Louie Bellson. Mr. Bellson was born in Rock Falls, Illinois on July 6, 1924. He became by many accolades the “world’s greatest drummer”. He passed on February 14, 2009 in Los Angeles, California. Although funeral arrangements are not complete as of this time. Services will be conducted in California and then Mr. Bellson will be returned to Moline, Illinois, his boyhood home after leaving Rock Falls for burial with his other family members. The Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Bellson.

2. Mayor Blanton presented a brief synopsis on a meeting that he attended with Congressional Representative Phil Hare in regards to the stimulus package being approved. While all of the details are not readily available for release, a total of 1.7 million dollars will be received for use in educational programs in the Sterling /Rock Falls schools, along with; an additional 12 million dollars for building projects in the Sterling/Rock Falls schools. The all-important Capital plan is to be completed by Easter, this is vitally important for further distribution of economic stimulus monies for the State. Road projects in Illinois are to receive 8 billion dollars.
3. Mayor Blanton request that the Council name Alderman Gen Kuhlemier, Mayor Pro-Tem during the period February 22-28, 2009. Motion by Alderman Snow and seconded by Alderman Thurm to approve the mayoral request. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. 7 ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Blanton requested a motion for adjournment, since there is no further business to come before the Council. Motion by Alderman Folsom and seconded by Alderman Reitzel for the Council to adjourn. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Hand, Folsom and Thurm voted aye. Motion carried. (6:56 p.m.)

For approval at March 3, 2009 Council Meeting.

William B. Wescott, City Clerk