

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

March 3, 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, Snow, Arduini, Hand, Thurm were present. Alderman Reitzel, Kuhlemier and Folsom were absent. City Administrator Downey and City Attorney Reese were present.

Employee Introductions/Recognition:

Water Superintendent Ted Padilla introduced the newest member of the Department, Andrew Behrens to the Council. He then informed the Council of the advancements that have been made by Mr. Behrens during his probationary period. He will soon begin to pull call coverage.

Mr. Padilla then introduced Marty Thurm, Water Department Meter Reader to the Council and presented him with a letter of appreciation for all of his work in coordinating the Water Departments completion of the GIS mapping of the Water Distribution System through 2008. All of the Water Department vehicles have the latest mapping available for the employees as they are called upon to make repairs and update the system. Mr. Thurm was appreciative of the award, however, was quick to point out that everyone at the Department contributes to the success of projects like this.

Audience Requests:

Mr. Robert Mundt, 808 East 2nd Street, Rock Falls addressed the Council in regards to the proposed Ordinance concerning Weeds, Trees and Bushes Declared a Nuisance that is up for first reading this evening. He primarily wished to know if the ordinance would cover all areas of the City. He has spoken to the Mayor about his concern that the trees and brush on the river bank across the street from his residence prohibit the viewing of the river not only for him, but for others that travel East 2nd street. Mayor Blanton told Mr. Mundt that the property in question does not belong to the City of Rock Falls and therefore, the ordinance in question will not cover the maintenance of such property.

Community Affairs:

Doug Wiersema, President/CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce presented an overview of the many upcoming events that the Chamber is sponsoring and/or participating in. He informed the Council, since the Chamber has taken over the management of the Community Building there has been a 200% + increase in the use of the facility. With the increase in income, several long-term projects have been started, will shall lead to a new look inside of the facility.

Mr. Wiersema also shared with the Council that as he is out through the Community, speaking with business owners, he is hearing stories of continued success, even in the midst of a well-publicized economic downturn. He reminded everyone, that in small town America, businesses are doing well and continue to show a strong base during these hard times. He encouraged everyone to continue to shop locally when at all possible.

Ordinance/First Reading:

1. Ordinance 2009 – 2322; Section 10-117. Weeds, Trees and Bushes Declared a Nuisance.
2. Ordinance 2009 – 2324; Section 9-157. Snow Emergency Parking & Section 9 -158. Downtown Business Area parking during Snow Emergencies.

Motion by Alderman Snow and seconded by Alderman Vandersnick to approve first reading of both Ordinances as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (5) ayes, motion carried.

Ordinance/Second Reading-Adoption:

1. Ordinance 2009 – 2320; Section 9 -171. Restricted length Vehicle Parking – Compact Cars.

Motion by Alderman Vandersnick and seconded by Alderman Thurm to approve the Ordinance as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (5) ayes, motion carried.

2. Ordinance 2009 – 2323; Ordinance Authorizing the City of Rock Falls, Whiteside County, Illinois to borrow funds from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion by Alderman Snow and seconded by Alderman Hand to approve the Ordinance as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (5) ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes of February 17, 2009 Council Meeting
2. Approve Bills as presented
3. Approve recommendation from the Finance/Insurance Committee for the expenditure of \$8,184.00 for the Min/Max Billing for Medical Health Insurance 12/01/2007-12/31/2008.
4. Approve the request of the Police Department to apply for FFY 2006 Justice Assistance Grant. The purpose of the program is to assist Departments in the funding and purchase of police vehicles to law enforcement agencies. The request for funding on non-hybrid vehicles is \$18,000.00.
5. Approve the expenditure of \$1,102.50 to Paul Jakubczak under the Tuition Reimbursement Policy. Course BUS 644 Operations Management passed with a grade (A).
6. Approve Terracon Task Order Proposal for Asbestos Sampling Services (Proposal No. P07090076) for the Reliant Fastner East Building at a cost of \$7,350.00, which replaces (Proposal No. 0708433), approved at the February 17, 2009 Council Meeting.
7. Approve Terracon Task Order Proposal for Reliant Fastner West Building Asbestos Survey Services (Proposal No. P07090088) at a cost of \$2,990.00.
8. Approve Electric Department request to purchase 15,000 feet of 1/0 AL 15 KV wire at a cost of \$1.49/per foot for a total purchase price of \$22,350.00 from HD Supply Utilities LTD.
9. Approve the roadway repairs to East 2nd Street near the hydro plant by Twin City Construction at a cost estimated not to exceed \$10,000.00.
10. Approve Proclamation recognizing “Local Government Week”, in the City of Rock Falls the week of March 1-7, 2009.

City Administrator Report::

Administrator Downey presented the following items to the Council as informational:

1. Last week, the Bike Path Recreational Trail Grant was completed and submitted for Phase I. This grant is through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for \$90,000.00. The local office of the IDNR was very helpful in the completion of this application.

2. City will be attending a program presented by the Illinois Housing Development Authority in regards to the Rental Rehab Grants. The City will be involved in the program again this year.
3. The City will once again be participating in the SFOOR program (Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation) Grant Program. The City is in line to receive funding for (6) homes again and will receive final word in May.
4. The City is applying for a State Highway Grant to replace and upgrade the lighting in our Public Safety Buildings (Fire and Police Departments). The grant if received will allow us to replace and upgrade a lighting system that goes back to 1966. The new lighting packages will not only improve visibility, but also in addition lower operational costs.
5. Mr. Downey reviewed with the Council the budget timeline that has been established by the Finance Committee. It is planned to have the 2009-2010 budget to the Council for first reading on April 7th.

Department Heads:

Water – Mr. Padilla addressed the Council on a recent article that appeared in the Sauk Valley News in regards to leaking contaminants from the landfill making there way into water supplies. He reminded the Council and others that this particular issue would not affect the drinking water of the City; however, we must always be vigilante to protect our aquifer. These are the very type of issues that the groundwater committee is working so hard to promote in the schools.

Information/Correspondence:

City Clerk Wescott presented the following two items to the council:

1. Received a letter of condolence from Mayor Bud Thompson, on behalf of the City of Prophetstown in regards to the recent death of Louis Bellson.
2. Acknowledge to the Council that City Administrator Richard Downey has successfully passed and received certification as a Professional In Human Resources. This recognition comes after Mr. Downey's successful completion of a rigorous, comprehensive examination in the field of human resource management. The Mayor and Council congratulated Mr. Downey on his accomplishment.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Blanton presented a brief overview to the Council on his and Alderman Hand's recent attendance at the APPA Conference in Washington, D.C... It was noted by the Mayor that his year's conference was one of the better ones that he has attended over the years.

Mayor Blanton requested that the following appoints be approved:

Industrial Development Commission – Daehle Reitzel (4-30-09 to 4-30-14)

Planning & Zoning – Rick Turnroth, Charles Koehler, Debi Burke, Mark Vandernick, David Erby and Matt Lillpop (04-30-09 to 04-30-13).

RFCDC Board – Doug Wiersema and Alderman Daehle Reitzel (4-30-09 to 4-30-10)

Motion made by Alderman Snow and seconded by Alderman Arduini to approve the appointments as presented. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandernick, Snow, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (5) ayes, motion carried.

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Adjournment:

With no other business to come before the Council, Alderman Snow moves for adjournment, seconded by Alderman Vandersnick. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Snow, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (5) ayes, motion carried.

For approval at March 17, 2009 Meeting.

William B. Wescott, City Clerk