

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

March 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, Arduini, Hand and Thurm were present. Alderman Folsom was absent. City Administrator Downey and City Attorney Reese were present.

*Public Hearing:*

Public Hearing was held following due notice, to allow an opportunity for the residence of Rock Falls to receive information and make comment on the Illinois Trails Grant Programs. The City of Rock Falls will be making application for a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The grant would allow for the establishment of a year-round trail/patch within a linear, non-existing transportation corridor (greenway). The grant is for \$90,000.00 and would be utilized for Phase 1 of the project.

Mr. Richard Downey, City Administrator presents the following information: For the past several years a volunteer committee has been working on the establishment of a system of trail/pathways through areas of Rock Falls along the abandoned railway properties. They have established the project into three phases: Phase 1 – Dixon Avenue to the Hennepin Canal to include a parking lot near Avenue D and E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street; Phase 2 – Hennepin Canal to McNeil Road; Phase 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Bridge to the Upper Dam. Those present were able to view aerial maps of the City which clearly outlined the Phases of the project being identified in relation to the City. Upon completion of all three phases, a non-motorized bike/walking path will connect the downtown area along the riverfront or diagonally cross town to the east of the City on McNeil Road. All pathways will allow for access to the Hennepin Canal State Park system, as well as, across the upper Sinnissippi Dam into the City of Sterling and the proposed bike/walk path that they are working on as well. It was stressed that this grant is strictly for non-motorized pathways (no snowmobiles). Grants are available for motorized routes as well; however they are not being pursued at this time.

Mayor Blanton and Alderman Kuhlemier spoke on the dedication of the committee in working on this project. Although it will take several years to complete all Phases of the plan, the end result will provide the community with an outstanding recreational outlet, as well as, a tourism tool. No one spoke against the grant application. Hearing no other comments, the hearing was closed at 6:40 pm.

*Community Affairs:*

Doug Wiersema, President/CEO, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce updated the Council on the following informational dates: March 19 – After Hours at Crossroads Youth Center @ 5:00 pm; March 25 – Meet the Candidates Forum to be held in the Municipal Council Chambers and broadcasted on Television Channel 5 starting at 6:00 pm; April 1 – First Wednesday Breakfast at the All American Bar and Grill, guest speaker will be from Ashford University.

*Ordinance/Second Reading – Adoption:*

1. 2009-2322; Section 10-117. Weeds, Trees and Bushes Declared a Nuisance.  
Motion for acceptance: Alderman Vandersnick seconded Alderman Thurm. Roll call; Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

2. 2009-2324; Section 9-157. Snow Emergency Parking & Section 9-158. Downtown Business Area Parking during Snow Emergency.

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Snow seconded Alderman Vandersnick. Roll call; Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

3. 2009-2325; Ordinance to approve the admission of the Village of Riverton, Sangamon County, Illinois as a member of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency.

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Hand seconded Alderman Arduini. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

4. 2009-2326; Ordinance authorizing Execution of Agreement for Easement with Commonwealth Edison Company (Sanitary sewer main and cable conduit).

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Arduini seconded Alderman Thurm. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

*Consent Agenda:*

1. Approve Minutes from March 3, 2009 Council Meeting
2. Approve Bills as presented
3. Approve proclamation; City of Rock Falls Census 2010
4. Approve Resolution 2009-540; Authorizing payment of consideration for easement with Commonwealth Edison Company (Sanitary sewer main and cable conduit).
5. Approve the following Bucket Brigade Requests:

April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Red Cross	August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Celletti VFW
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rock Falls Rotary	August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fireman MDA Drive
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	American Legion Post 902	September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kiwanis Club
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycees	September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Knights of Columbus
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sauk Valley Marines	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lions Club
6. Approve the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission for the amended request of a variance for rear yard setback from the required 30 feet to 15 feet; and a "Special Use" designated to allow for a garage and parking lot on property in an R-2 zoning district. The findings and stipulations satisfy the Special Provisions Section 16-270 (d)(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6) of the Zoning Code for the City of Rock Falls.

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Snow seconded Alderman Reitzel. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

*City Administrator Report:*

City Administrator Downey briefed the Council on the following:

1. As part of the economic stimulus program, Sterling/Rock Falls will be viewed together for some of the distributions of monies, since we are considered a metro area. Monies readily available are strictly earmarked for road repairs, specifically FAU (Federal Aid Urban Routes) routes. Monies available to the City are projected to be near \$300,000.00. The stimulus monies are coming from Federal sources and all are very specific in the way they are used, despite the needs of the communities.
2. A State program that will be receiving stimulus monies that the City will have access to comes through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. At this time all of the guidelines are not fully developed, more information will be forth coming.

3. Single Family Owner Occupied Residential (SFOOR) grants are closing out for this year. Applications will continue to be taken as we will continue this program designed to make improvements to residential homes based on income guidelines. It helps out families and at the same time raises property values.
4. Mr. Downey will be presenting a program to the Sauk Valley Landlord Association on the Small Rental Property Program. (SRRP). Following that meeting if there is enough interest, Mr. Downey will speak to the Building Committee about pursuing these grants.
5. The first of the Budget meetings was held by the Finance Committee. The presentation went well and the process will be continuing, covering all Department budgets over the next several weeks.

*Department Heads:*

Electric Utilities: Mr. Jakubczak brought forth the following items for approval and information:

1. Requested approval of expenditures not to exceed \$12,000.00 for updates to the SCADA System to be completed by Survalent Technologies Inc.

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Hand seconded Alderman Kuhlemier. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

2. Reported the returns from the Bid opening on March 13, 2009 for the Fiber Optic Installation. AMCOMM Telecommunications, White Lake, Michigan underground service \$135,900.00; Kelso-Burnett, Rockford, Illinois underground \$149,827.00; DeKalb Fiber Optic, DeKalb, Illinois underground \$189,000/above ground \$98,000.00; Engle Electric, Sterling, Illinois underground \$222,404.00. NI Solutions Inc, consultant to the City for Broadband operations and the Electric Committee recommend the contract be awarded to AMCOMM Telecommunications.

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Hand seconded Alderman Reitzel. Upon roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

3. Mr. Jakubczak provided information to the Council of an Open House at the Sternburg Lighting Company in Roselle, Illinois on April 3, 2009. The Company will be presenting the new product line of LED street lights. Representatives will be present to discuss the new market and cost savings possible for municipalities. Anyone wishing to go to the show should contact Mr. Jakubczak.

*Street Department:*

1. Mr. White provided information on a upcoming trip he will be making to Burlington, Iowa on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> to view a demonstration new machinery that is utilized to make repairs to streets. If any Council members would like to attend, they should contact Mr. White.

*Mayor's Report:*

1. Mayor Blanton reported that Alderman Kuhlemier along with himself will be attending the Spring Conference of the Illinois Enterprise Board in Decatur, Illinois on April 1-3.
2. Mayor Blanton requested the following appoints to the 2010 Census Count Committee: Chairman, Mark Searing, Debi Burke, Coloma Township Supervisor, Bethany Bland, Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce and Jeff Brown, Principal Rock Falls Middle School.

Motion for acceptance: Alderman Snow seconded Alderman Arduini. Roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried.

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*Adjournment:*

Motion for adjournment by Alderman Snow and seconded by Alderman Reitzel. Roll call, Alderman Vandersnick, Reitzel, Snow, Kuhlemier, Arduini, Hand and Thurm voted aye. Vote (7) ayes, motion carried. (7:05 pm)

Minutes for approval at the April 7, 2009 Council meeting.

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William B. Wescott, City Clerk