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Rockford Town Regular Council Meeting May 16, 2018 7:00pm

NOTE TO PERSONS REVIEWING THIS DOCUMENT: THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT. WHILE AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO DOCUMENT PERTINENT POINTS, THESE MINUTES CONTAIN ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AND VOTING.

Mayor pro-tem Micki Harnois called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call took place. Those present Councilmembers Clint Stevenson, Micki Harnois, Tim Fricke, William Benson, Brian Laude, Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson and Public Works' Dave Thompson.
Ms. Harnois noted that Ms. Roecks was absent from the meeting due to health issues in her household.

Mr. Benson made a motion to excuse Mayor Roecks from the meeting. Mr. Fricke seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 05/02/2018 regular meeting. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Resident Joe Kendig explained to Council that he had purchased some vacant property on B Street in October 2017 and was told at the time that he could put in a water well on the property. When he called Town Hall a week ago, looking for a well permit, he was told that Rockford no longer allows private wells inside town limits. He explained to Council that he purchased the property based on the information he received in October, and suggested Council honor that. Mr. Thompson asked why he wanted a well, when connecting to the water system could be cheaper and less maintenance. Mr. Kendig had heard that the town's water system couldn't provide enough water pressure at his property. There was discussion between Mr. Thompson, Mr. Kendig and the councilmembers about connecting to the water system and installing a properly sized cistern to ensure the property receives enough water pressure. It was the consensus of the council that a well will not be allowed and that Mr. Kendig will need to connect to the town's water system.

Resident Greg Johnson spoke about a piece of property that he owns on North Street that has working septic system, but the house connected to it is uninhabitable. Mr. Johnson's plan is to demolish the existing house and add a manufactured home. He asked Council for a variance to the sewer ordinance that states all new construction needs to be connected to the sewer system. The closest sewer main is quite a distance from the property and would require Mr. Johnson to acquire easements from the town and other property owners, as well as create a financial hardship to him and his family. Since there is a working septic tank on the property, Mr. Johnson would like to connect the new house to it. Council reviewed Ordinance 93-10 and found that the verbiage is not completely clear if this route allowed. Mr. Fricke asked the clerk to check with the town's attorney and to see how he understands it. Once there is an answer from the attorney, council will discuss this again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Rockford's community-wide yard sale is June 1-3
- Small City Connectors meeting is in Palouse on May 29

COUNCIL REPORTS

None

53 COMMISSION REPORTS

54 Planning and Zoning – 303 W North Street – Fricke Fence Permit

55 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the fence permit at 303 W North Street. Mr. Benson**
56 **seconded the motion. Mr. Fricke abstained. Motion was carried.**

57

58 Comprehensive Plan

59 Ms. Harnois explained that the plan needs to be reformatted before sending it to the State. She will get
60 everything on a flash drive and Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Fricke will work on it.

61

62 COMMITTEE REPORTS

63 Tree City/Parks

64 Ms. Harnois said she talked to Garth Davis from the Conservation District and told him the town wants to
65 plant any new trees in the fall, and possibly at the lower ballfield.

66

67 PUBLIC COMMENT

68 -Resident Ivan Willmschen asked what house was being discussed during the septic/sewer conversation.

69 -Resident Joe Kendig asked if Council was a volunteer position, and who write's the ordinances.

70

71 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

72 None

73

74 OLD BUSINESS

75 Nuisance/Notice of Abatement

76 It was reported that the owner of the vacant house on 106 A Street has boarded up the house as requested
77 by the town.

78

79 Surplus Property

80 It was reported that there were no bids on the auction of the surplus property.

81

82 NEW BUSINESS

83 Mr. Stevenson suggested creating a committee to go over/make changes to the agriculture and animal
84 regulations before they are finalized in the zoning regulations. He will work on organizing a committee.

85

86 PUBLIC COMMENT

87 -Resident Vicki Bergstrom asked if the town could do anything about the vacant house at 6 E B Street, as it
88 has broken windows and could be dangerous.

89

90 STAFF REPORTS

91 Public Works

- 92 • Mr. Thompson told council that they are working on getting letters out regarding the cross-
93 connection assemblies survey.
- 94 • The owner of 126 N Sprague wants to connect his house to the town's sewer system. It is currently
95 on septic. Big Sky Industrial video-ed the line today and it looks like the connection can be done,
96 although a manhole will have to be installed.
- 97 • The dump truck that was purchased is still in Massachusetts and is waiting to be shipped here.

98

99 Clerk/Deputy Clerk

- 100 • Mrs. Johnson stated that the April Treasurer's report shows \$479,339.47 in all funds.
- 101 • Mrs. Johnson informed Council of the Public Records Index Policy that was put into place last week.
- 102 • **Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the updated lease for the Rockford Area Historical**
103 **Society and Museum, for use of the town's Ag building. Mr. Fricke seconded the motion.**
104 **Motion was carried.**

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APPROVE CHECKS

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 14414 – 14428 for a total of \$26,142.82. Mr. Benson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Mr. Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39pm. Mr. Benson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Heidi Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Carrie Roecks, Mayor