

1 **Rockford Town Council Public Hearings and Regular Meeting**
2 **October 18, 2023, 7pm**
3

4 NOTE TO PERSONS REVIEWING THIS DOCUMENT: THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT. WHILE
5 AN ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO DOCUMENT PERTINENT POINTS, THESE MINUTES CONTAIN
6 ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION AND VOTING.
7

8 Mayor Roecks opened the public hearing, stating that the purpose of the hearing was to take input on
9 increasing the EMS property tax levy. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson said that the amount of the increase is
10 1% of the previous year, totaling about \$1,400. Resident Shellie Madison asked if the increase of \$1400 per
11 household. Ms. Roecks said that the \$1400 would be the total amount received from the whole town.
12 Resident Troy Messersmith said he is usually supportive of levies but is opposed to the increase because
13 his wages are not also being increased. Resident Carol Bell asked what would happen if the levy did not
14 pass. Mrs. Johnson said that there is an existing five-year EMS levy, so there won't be a public vote on this
15 one, but the council has the right to increase the amount by 1%. There was no other public comment and
16 Ms. Roecks closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.
17

18 Mayor Roecks opened a second public hearing, stating that the purpose of the hearing was to take input on
19 increasing the regular property tax levy. Mr. Messersmith said he is opposed to this levy increase, as well,
20 since his property tax has gone up so much since moving here. Mrs. Johnson suggested contacting the
21 Spokane County Assessor's Office to try and dispute the increases in his assessed value. Mrs. Madison
22 asked if anybody knew why the assessed values of the homes continue to increase, even though the prices
23 have gone down so much lately. There was no other public comment and Ms. Roecks closed the public
24 hearing at 7:11pm.
25

26 Ms. Roecks called the regular meeting to order at 7:11pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
27

28 Roll call took place. Those present were Mayor Carrie Roecks, Councilmembers Clint Stevenson, Tim
29 Fricke, Walt Whitman and Kevin Willms. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson and Public Works' Dave Thompson
30 were also in attendance.
31

32 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to excuse Councilmember Micki Harnois from the meeting due to another**
33 **meeting she is attending. Mr. Stevenson second the motion. Motion carried.**
34

35 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion.**
36 **Motion carried.**
37

38 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/04/2023 regular meeting. Mr. Fricke**
39 **seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
40

41 ANNOUNCEMENTS

42 - Rockford United Methodist Church Harvest Dinner 10/26/23 5:30-7pm
43

44 COUNCIL REPORTS - None
45

46 COMMISSION REPORTS

47 Planning Commission – No updates. Next meeting is 10/31.
48

49 COMMITTEE REPORTS

50 Ballfield Committee – The infield mix that was ordered did not meet requirements so it will be re-mixed
51 before delivery. Ms. Roecks attended a Lion's Club meeting to explain the plan for the rest of the ballfield
52 upgrade to ask the Lion's Club if they would like to make a donation. She said that some of the members

53 were upset that the Town changed the locks on the buildings in the fairgrounds and wanted keys. There
54 were other areas of concern from the Lion's Club that were discussed. Ms. Roecks said she would report
55 back if they decided to donate or if there were any requirements involved with a potential donation.
56

57 Asset Committee – the State Auditor's Office had some suggestions about the small and attractive asset
58 inventory that should be implemented. Staff will work on updating the inventory before moving on to the next
59 phase.
60

61 Finance Committee – preliminary budget meeting scheduled for 11/06 at 6:00pm.
62

63 Tree City, USA – Arbor Day scheduled for 10/30 at 4:30pm. A tree has been donated to the town by Ron
64 Edwards at Profile Products.
65

66 PUBLIC COMMENT

67 - Howard Cunningham spoke about Resident Troy Messersmith and stated that he was aware of the
68 situation with the town and Mr. Messersmith. He said how honest and kind Mr. Messersmith is and
69 would like to see the town embrace him. He would implore the council to end Mr. Messersmith's
70 lawsuit tomorrow. He added many other compliments and said that Mr. Messersmith is an asset to
71 the community.
72

73 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

74 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-08, increasing the EMS levy by 1%. Mr. Fricke**
75 **seconded the motion. Mr. Whitman said that a \$1400 increase still affects everyone's taxes, and he**
76 **believes the fire department could cut back \$1400 in costs. There was discussion about taxes**
77 **increasing across the whole state/county. Mr. Whitman voted nay. Motion carried.**
78

79 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to accept Resolution 23-09, increasing the regular property tax levy by**
80 **1%. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. There was discussion about increasing the regular property**
81 **tax and how it would affect the town's revenue. Motion carried.**
82

83 OLD BUSINESS

84 Cooperation agreement for Community Development Block Grant and Related Funds

85 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to re-approve the Cooperation Agreement with the Community**
86 **Development Block Grant program. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
87

88 Code Enforcement – no update
89

90 NEW BUSINESS

91 Climate Change Resiliency Grant Application – Spokane County

92 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan Letter of Support.**
93 **Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
94

95 STAFF REPORTS

96 Public Works

- 97 - Mr. Thompson reported that the meter at 205 E B Street was installed.
- 98 - Mr. Marcalus has closed up the parks by shutting down the bathrooms, sprinkler systems and
99 mowing for the year.
- 100 - Mr. Thompson will be attending the IACC Conference in Wenatchee next week.

101 Clerk/Treasurer

- 103 - The 2-year Accountability Audit is complete.
- 104 - Mrs. Johnson has a meeting with the Spangle, Waverly, Latah and Fairfield clerks, along with the
105 Sheriff's Department next week. This meeting will be to discuss cost and services.

106 - Mrs. Johnson reported that she received the 2024 insurance assessment from AWC. Rates have gone
107 up over \$22,000, totaling \$72,951. She has asked if anything can be negotiated or changed in our
108 policy. A representative with AWC will speak with their Board of Directors and get back to her.
109

110 PUBLIC COMMENT – None
111

112 APPROVE CHECKS

113 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 18224-18245, with check 18224 being voided, for a**
114 **total of \$43,258.56. Mr. Fricke seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
115

116 **Mr. Willms made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion**
117 **carried.**
118

119 The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157

158 _____
Heidi Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Carrie Roecks, Mayor