

1 **Rockford Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting**  
2 **November 3, 2021, 7:00pm**  
3

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

8 Mayor Roecks called the Public Hearing to order, stating that its purpose was to take input on the request for  
9 variance at 130 E Lake Street. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson explained that the resident at this address  
10 would like to split her parcel into two lots. For her to have a 10-foot driveway next to the shop on the second  
11 parcel, she is requesting the parcel with her house on it have a 3-foot setback, which is 2-feet less than the  
12 5-foot side setback regulation in the town's current zoning ordinance.

13 Resident Bud Lochridge asked if he could see the parcel on the map. Ms. Roecks showed the public which  
14 lots are included in the request.

15 Resident Jennie Hagen said she feels the variance should be allowed to avoid on street parking at the  
16 current shop.

17 There was no other comment from the public, nor were there any comment submitted to the Clerk/Treasurer  
18 prior to the public hearing. Ms. Roecks closed the public hearing.  
19

20 Mayor Carrie Roecks called the regular meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
21

22 Roll call took place. Those in attendance were Mayor Carrie Roecks, Councilmembers Clint Stevenson,  
23 Micki Harnois, Tim Fricke and Brian Laude. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson and Public Works' Dave  
24 Thompson were also in attendance. Councilmember Rachelle Arriaga was absent.  
25

26 Ms. Roecks introduced Gary Ballew from Economic Development of Greater Spokane Inc. Mr. Ballew  
27 explained his background in Economic Development and what he can do for Rockford, especially local  
28 businesses. He said his group can help grow business, focus on business retention and expansion and help  
29 startup businesses. He mentioned that Spokane Library and Spokane County Library District both have  
30 different resources for businesses, as well. Mr. Ballew said he would like to invite community members and  
31 business owners to take a survey at [thrivespokane.org](http://thrivespokane.org), as part of the preparation of a comprehensive  
32 economic development strategy.

33 Ms. Harnois asked if it costs money to be a member of GSI. Mr. Ballew said it does cost to be a member,  
34 but not to use its services.

35 There were questions and answers about what kind of help is offered to businesses, what help could be  
36 offered for vacant commercial land and how workforce can be provided. Ms. Harnois asked if GSI had ever  
37 offered to have a gathering of small business owners for networking or to help introduce new owners to  
38 established owners. Mr. Ballew said that they have hosted "start-up parties" in the past.

39 Mr. Ballew thanked Council for their time and left some resource material at Town Hall to share with the  
40 community.  
41

42 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Harnois seconded the motion. Motion was**  
43 **carried.**  
44

45 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/20/2021 regular meeting. Mr.**  
46 **Laude seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**  
47

48 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 49 - Preliminary Budget Public Hearing and a Special Meeting on 11/10/2021 at 7pm at Town Hall.
- 50 - The Rockford Methodist Women is having a pie sale for Thanksgiving. Order before the 15<sup>th</sup> by  
51 calling Vivian Plank.

- 52 - Spokane Valley Partners will have their mobile food bank at the Methodist Church on 11/11, 12/9  
53 and 12/23 from 3:15-4pm  
54 - Ms. Roecks thanked Resident Reinhart for fixing the door on the food pantry near the Methodist  
55 Church.  
56 - Town Hall will be closed 11/11/2021 in observance of Veteran's Day.  
57

58 COUNCIL REPORTS - None  
59 COMMISSION REPORTS - None  
60

61 COMMITTEE REPORTS

62 Tree City

63 Ms. Harnois purchased two trees and the town's Arbor Day dedication will be at 4pm on 11/4/2021 in the  
64 town park.  
65

66 PUBLIC COMMENT - None  
67

68 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS - None  
69

70 OLD BUSINESS - None  
71

72 NEW BUSINESS

73 Variance Request – 130 E Lake St, Leah Erlenbush

74 Council discussed the potential of the resident requesting a second variance for the opposite side of her  
75 shop due to it being so close to the property line, what would happen if the structure burned down and had  
76 to be rebuilt, and parking issues at the new parcel. There was discussion about other potential issues that  
77 could come up in the future.

78 Because the variance request was for a setback between two parcels that the current resident already owns,  
79 Council decided that any future concerns with property use could be discussed if it comes up again.

80 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve the variance at 130 E Lake Street. Mr. Stevenson seconded the**  
81 **motion. Motion was carried.**  
82

83 STAFF REPORTS

84 Public Works

- 85 - Mr. Thompson reported that an evicted renter at 30 N Ruby Street placed all of his belongings in the  
86 road last week. The town gave him verbal and written notice to remove them as soon as possible or  
87 the town will remove them. The deadline for him to remove the items came and the town ordered a  
88 25-yard dumpster in which all of the belongings were placed. The renter, Seth Anderson, was told he  
89 had a week to contact Town Hall and get his items. He would have to pay the dumpster fee when he  
90 came to get his property. The Sheriff's Department was on-scene when this conversation transpired  
91 between Mr. Anderson and Mr. Thompson. As of this evening, the property still has not been  
92 claimed. Empire Disposal will be removing the dumpster and items on Friday, 11/05/2021.  
93 - Mr. Thompson said that Public Works has been busy grading roads and fixing a water leak. They  
94 have also been busy with residential contractors working on water/sewer connections.  
95 - Mr. Thompson reported that he received paperwork on the grader the town would like to buy.  
96 Western States has records and invoices of the motor being rebuilt in 2013, for over \$12k.

97 Clerk/Treasurer

- 98 - Mrs. Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report, stating that the total amount in all funds at the end of  
99 October was \$868,819.86.

100 - **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the Utility Bill Adjustment Report for October. Ms.**  
101 **Harnois seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

- 102 - The Past Due Report was submitted and reviewed.  
103  
104

105 PUBLIC COMMENT

- 106 - Resident Ivan Willmschen asked Mr. Fricke if he has heard anything back regarding what other
- 107 small towns are offering for wages. Mr. Fricke said he has only gotten two.
- 108 - Mr. Willmschen asked if the owner of 130 E Lake Street decided to live in her shop, would she have
- 109 to pay for new water and sewer connections. Mr. Thompson answered yes.
- 110 - Mr. Willmschen what the check for \$1800.00 to Spokane County was for. Mrs. Johnson said its for
- 111 the prosecuting attorney for any misdemeanors that have happened in town limits, between 07/01-
- 112 09/30/2021.
- 113 - Mr. Willsmchen asked Ms. Harnois how many trees were purchased. Ms. Harnois said two trees
- 114 were purchased.
- 115 - Mr. Willmschen asked when the loan will be paid off. Mrs. Johnson said spring of 2022 is the
- 116 anticipated payoff date.

117  
118 APPROVE CHECKS

119 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 17258-17281 and three EFTs for a total of**

120 **\$116,437.17. Mr. Laude seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

121  
122 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Harnois seconded the motion. Motion was**

123 **carried.**

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125 The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

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Heidi Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

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Carrie Roecks, Mayor