

1 **Rockford Town Regular Council Meeting**
2 **November 20, 2019 7:00pm**
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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.
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8 Mayor Roecks called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 Roll call took place. Those present were Councilmembers Clint Stevenson, Micki Harnois, Tim Fricke,
10 William Benson and Brian Laude. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson and Public Works' Dave Thompson
11 were also in attendance.
12

13 *A public hearing was opened at 7:01pm. Mayor Roecks stated that the purpose of the meeting was to*
14 *take public comment on the 2020 final budget. There was no public comment. Ms. Roecks closed the*
15 *public hearing at 7:03pm.*
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17 **Mr. Benson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion.**
18 **Motion was carried.**
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20 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/06/2019 regular meeting. Mr.**
21 **Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
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23 **Mr. Laude made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/13/2019 special meeting. Mr. Stevenson**
24 **seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
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26 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 27 - Christmas on the Palouse is 12/7/2019
 - 28 - Town Hall will be closed 11/28 and 11/29/2019
- 29

30 COUNCIL REPORTS

- 31 - Ms. Harnois was elected to be on the Spokane Regional Transportation Council. Her position will
32 start January 1, 2020.
- 33

34 COMMISSION REPORTS - None

35 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 36 - The Finance Committee will meet after the new year.
- 37

38 PUBLIC COMMENT - None
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40 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

41 **Mr. Benson made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-10, prohibiting vacation of all streets and alleys**
42 **within town limits. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Ms. Harnois said that she feels that street**
43 **vacations should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Harnois voted no on the motion.**
44 **Motion was carried.**
45

46 OLD BUSINESS

47 Community Development Block Grant

48 Ms. Harnois reported that she has done some digging as to why Rockford no longer qualifies for funding
49 from CDBG. According to the maps and figures are only showing a population of 365, when we have 480,
50 according to the 2010 census. She said that a fellow from the CDBG office stated that they get their
51 information directly from HUD and that it cannot be changed. Ms. Harnois also spoke with Heather Cannon
52

53 at RCAC, who suggested avenues in trying to prove our true population before committing to a costly
54 income survey. Ms. Harnois said she was apprehensive about challenging HUD, since they are our income
55 source for Spokane County Block Grants.

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57 **NEW BUSINESS**

58 Glenn Wageman will be attending the 12/04/2019 regular meeting. Council/Public Works will ask him about
59 maintaining the ditch lines on the highway/getting the State to plow Missile Base Road in the winter and
60 moving the “maximum height” sign by the underpass on Highway 27.

61
62 Ms. Roecks said that there will be a “lighting of the town park” on 12/04/2019 at 6pm when all of the park
63 Christmas lights will be turned on. The Rockford Women’s Club will be making cookies for the event. She
64 said she hopes Council will attend.

65
66 **Public Works**

- 67 • Mr. Thompson reported that he checked on the shed on Stringham Road, owned by Scott Hoagland.
68 There is no infrastructure connected.
- 69 • There was a sewer backup at a home on Center Avenue. The new resident was frustrated about the
70 way the sewer was connected to the town’s main. Mr. Thompson said that he and Paul Sifford will
71 be doing some camera work and a dye test next week.
- 72 • Mr. Thompson said that he got a letter of violation from the Army Corps of Engineers about cleaning
73 the creek because someone filed a complaint. He spoke with them and resolved the issue after
74 explaining that he went through all the proper permitting procedures. The Army Corps of Engineers
75 said they would like to see 400 feet of vegetation planted, to make up for the 400 feet that was
76 removed from the creek bed.

77
78 **Clerk/Treasurer**

- 79 • Mrs. Johnson gave the Treasurer’s Report and said that the total amount in all funds at the end of
80 October was \$639,934.77
- 81 • Per a conversation during the budget workshop, it was requested by Mrs. Johnson that Council
82 increase Ms. Hagen’s wages to \$15/hour.
83 **Ms. Harnois made a motion to increase Ms. Hagen’s wages to \$15/hour starting 11/16/2019.**
84 **Mr. Fricke seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
- 85 • Mrs. Johnson told Council that both Fairfield and Latah allot for a certain percentage of property tax
86 revenue to go to their street funds. There was discussion about this and it was decided that we
87 should try to do the same thing, allotting 20% from property tax to the street fund each month,
88 starting in 2020.

89
90 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 91 - Lorrie Engle said to be careful when moving property tax money to the street fund. She said
92 residents may see a chunk of money in there and complain about their roads not getting fixed.
- 93 - Resident Ivan Willmschen said that a couple years ago Council decided to give staff a wage
94 increase in lieu of offering them benefits. Now he sees in the November 13th minutes that adding
95 benefits and another 3% increase was discussed. Ms. Roecks said that a 3% increase was
96 budgeted for, but medical benefits were not.
- 97 - Mr. Willmschen asked if the Auditors Office was done with their audit. Mrs. Johnson said no. There
98 has been nothing said about when they will be done.
- 99 - Mr. Willmschen asked what the check of \$18,385.50 for the fire district was for. Ms. Roecks said we
100 pay half of the district’s dispatch fees and wages.
- 101 - Councilmember Benson said he has been in contact with the Sheriffs Department, trying to find the
102 best way to stop the serial litter bug at the entrance to town.
- 103 - Mr. Benson said that the Lions Club has decided not to hang the Christmas decorations this year,
104 due to ability and the condition of most of the decorations.

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- Deputy Clerk Jennie Hagen asked why Council is considering a four-way stop at the intersection of First and Emma. Has there been an accident? Mr. Stevenson said no, but there will be one soon. There was discussion about how dangerous the intersection is and how each person has almost gotten hit there.
- Mr. Willmschen asked Mr. Thompson why he got a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers now, after so much time has passed. Mr. Thompson said he didn't know.

APPROVE CHECKS

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 16319 through 16336, and no EFTs, for a total of \$26,401.76. Mr. Benson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Mr. Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Heidi Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Carrie Roecks, Mayor