

1 **Rockford Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting**
2 **October 6, 2021, 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 Public Hearing to order, stating that its purpose was to discuss the petition filed by
9 residents Troy Messersmith and Lisa Bryant to vacate the alley in Block 14.

10 Mr. Messersmith's attorney, AT Miller, provided material for Council to review. This included the explanation
11 of the request, the proposed vacation and legal description and the site survey.

12 There was some clarification needed due to a misunderstanding by the public about what alley was being
13 discussed.

14 Resident Kathleen Creed said that when she asked about vacating an alley on her parcel, Council said that
15 they had passed a resolution stating that they were no longer vacating any streets or alleys in Rockford. Ms.
16 Roecks said that was true, but state code (RCW) says that all vacation petitions need to be considered,
17 regardless of local code.

18 Mr. Miller said that the town could benefit from vacating the street by having the property added to the
19 town's tax rolls.

20 Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson said that there is an ordinance stating that the town could require a utility
21 easement if vacated.

22 Resident Jennie Hagen asked Mr. Messersmith what the benefit would be to own and pay taxes on a piece
23 of property that had a utility easement on it.

24 Resident Patrick Marcalus said that with the amount of growth and potential future development, he thinks
25 Council should not vacate any streets. Resident Ivan Willmschen agreed. The meeting was closed at
26 7:21pm.
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28 Mayor Carrie Roecks called the regular meeting to order at 7:22pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
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30 Roll call took place. Those in attendance were Mayor Carrie Roecks, Councilmembers Clint Stevenson,
31 Micki Harnois, Tim Fricke and Brian Laude. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson and Public Works' Dave
32 Thompson were also in attendance. Councilmember Rachelle Arriaga was absent.
33

34 **Ms. Harnois made a motion to excuse Rachelle Arriaga from the meeting, due to work. Mr. Fricke**
35 **seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
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37 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Laude seconded the motion.**
38 **Motion was carried.**
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40 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 09/15/2021 regular meeting. Mr.**
41 **Laude seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
42

43 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 44 - Two public hearings on 10/20/2021 regarding EMS and Regular Property Tax Levies
- 45 - A vacancy on the CDBG board for Rockford. Anybody interested can call Town Hall for more
46 information.
- 47 - Tire Collection Event on 10/16/2021 at the Fairfield Fire Station. More info on the town's website.
- 48 - Spokane Valley Partners will have their mobile food bank at the Methodist Church on 10/14 and
49 10/28 from 3:15-4pm
- 50 - Ms. Harnois will be attending the RMSA dinner in Chelan during the AWC Annual Conference to
51 receive the \$500 grant for cyber security.
52

53 COUNCIL REPORTS - None
54 COMMISSION REPORTS - None

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56 COMMITTEE REPORTS

57 Tree City
58 Ms. Harnois asked about an Arbor Day, which trees were removed from the parks and what type of tree
59 would Public Works like to replace them.

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61 PUBLIC COMMENT - None

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63 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS - None

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65 OLD BUSINESS - None

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67 NEW BUSINESS
68 Petition to Vacate Alley in Block 14

69 Ms. Harnois stated that Ordinance 97-6 stated that a utility easement could be requested when vacating, but
70 it is not required. Mr. Stevenson said that any future development needs to be considered for utility
71 placement. Mr. Fricke said that he understands Mr. Messersmith's desire to have the alley vacated, but as a
72 Councilmember he knows the importance of keeping the alley open. Mr. Thompson explained the necessity
73 of keeping the alley open.

74 After further discussion about the pros and cons of vacating the alley in question, Council voted.

75 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to decline the petition to vacate the alley in Block 14. Mr. Laude**
76 **seconded. Ms. Harnois said that any future development would be the owner's responsibility to**
77 **grant easements and she doesn't want to deprive the owner of using his property. Mr. Fricke said**
78 **that the alley is not Mr. Messersmith's property, it belongs to the town. Mr. Fricke said he was "on**
79 **the fence" about declining the petition but wants to plan for the future of the town. Mr. Laude, Mr.**
80 **Stevenson and Mr. Fricke vote yes to declining the petition. Ms. Harnois voted no. Motion was**
81 **carried.**

82
83 STAFF REPORTS

- 84 Public Works
- 85 - Mr. Thompson reported that the bathrooms have been winterized and sprinklers blown out.
 - 86 - Paul Dashiell will be bringing the town his grader to try out for potential purchase.
 - 87 - Public Works has been digging out ditches on 3rd Street.
 - 88 - Kasco of Idaho did some directional boring for Ziplly to install a fiber optic lines.

89
90 Clerk/Treasurer

- 91 - Mrs. Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report, stating that the total amount in all funds at the end of
92 September was \$860,438.92.
- 93 - **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the Utility Bill Adjustment Report for September.**
94 **Mr. Fricke seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
- 95 - The Past Due Report was submitted and reviewed.
- 96 - Mrs. Johnson asked if Council would like to raise the utility rates by 3%, per ordinance. The agreed
97 to have the rates raised, to be passed at the next meeting. Ms. Harnois asked that any street
98 vacation costs be added to the fee schedule, as well.

99
100 PUBLIC COMMENT

- 101 - Resident Kathleen Creed said she had to pay for a Temporary Use Permit to live in her RV while her
102 house was being installed and asked why there were so many people in her neighborhood living in
103 their RVs. Mrs. Johnson explained that the code violations should stop once the town gets the
104 ordinances codified. Mrs. Creed thanked Public Works for doing a great job in keeping the town
105 looking so nice.

- 106 - Resident Mark Lonam asked for more clarification on Block 14 and if any other roads surrounding it
107 were vacated. No other roads in that block have been vacated.
108 - Resident Ivan Willmschen said that he hates to think of all the time and money wasted on discussion
109 about street vacations over the years and he agrees with Council's decision. He then asked Mrs.
110 Johnson about a couple checks that were listed on the register, and what they were for.
111

112 APPROVE CHECKS

113 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 17210-17237 and four EFTs for a total of**
114 **\$36,017.94. Ms. Harnois seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

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

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119 The meeting was adjourned at 8:26pm.
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Heidi Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Carrie Roecks, Mayor