

Rockford Town Council Public Hearings and Regular Meeting November 5, 2025, 7pm

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 Roecks opened the first public hearing at 7:00pm, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to take public comment on the 2026 preliminary budget. Resident Gregg Tenner said it looks good. There was no other comment, and Ms. Roecks closed the public hearing.

Mayor Roecks opened the second public hearing at 7:01pm, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to take public comment on the increase of the EMS levy. There was no public comment, and Ms. Roecks closed the public hearing.

Mayor Roecks opened the third public hearing at 7:02pm, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to take public comment on the increase in the regular levy. There was no public comment, and Ms. Roecks closed the public hearing and called the regular meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the 10/15/2025 regular meeting. Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Public Hearing – 2026 Final Budget 11/19 at 7pm
- Public Hearing – 2025 Budget Amendment 12/3 at 7pm
- Town Hall closed 11/11, 11/27-11/28
- There is a Newly Elected Officials meeting through AWC that will be held 12/6 at 6:30pm.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Ms. Harnois reported that she attended an Emergency Management meeting with Spokane County. The meeting was to discuss cost sharing for the Emergency Management plan, and the County will absorb Rockford's share.
Ms. Harnois spoke about the opportunity for a grant to help mitigate some of the high fire danger areas. The grant is due on November 14th, which may not be enough time to apply, but the town should start putting together a report of all areas in town that are "defensible spaces" for future funding opportunities.
- Ms. Harnois spoke about previous awards earned from AWC-RMSA and how to possibly receive awards from them in the future. This would include items like more staff training and less claims. Ms. Roecks said she met with a member of WA State America's 250th group and the representative made suggestions about how Rockford could help celebrate America turning 250 next year. She has their contact information if anyone is interested.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- President Gregg Tenner said that Spokane County attend the 11/4 meeting and spoke about Rockford's Climate Vulnerability Assessment, as part of the agreement with the County to address the Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission

54 recommended that Council agree with assessment with the following changes, listed under
55 Resilience Opportunities: (1) Correct the highway number listed, (2) let the community know that
56 the fire station and town hall are available for clean centers during smoke events and educate
57 residents on proper shelter in place practices, and (3) notify residents on availability of sand
58 bags in case of flooding.

59 Mrs. Johnson will forward the report to Council to review and respond if necessary.
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61 COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

62 PUBLIC COMMENT - None

63 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

64 **Ms. Harnois made a motion to approve Resolution 25-07, increasing the EMS levy. Mr. Fricke
65 seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

66 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve Resolution 25-08, increasing the regular levy. Mr. Whitman
67 seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

68 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve Resolution 25-09, adopting a volunteer appreciation policy. Ms.
69 Harnois seconded the motion. There was discussion about what is and what is not allowed in the
70 policy. Motion carried.**

71 OLD BUSINESS

72 SCRAPS Interlocal Agreement

73 There was more discussion about the concern of SCRAPS not providing the service they promise and
74 paying 4x the amount in 2026.

75 **Mr. Fricke made a motion to approve the agreement with SCRAPS. Mr. Stevenson seconded the
76 motion. Mr. Willms, Ms. Harnois and Mr. Fricke voted yes. Mr. Whitman and Mr. Stevenson voted no.
77 Motion carried.**

78 NEW BUSINESS

79 The 2026 preliminary budget was reviewed. There was discussion about starting retirement benefits for
80 staff. Mr. Thompson said he will ask for his contact with Edward Jones to meet with the mayor and staff to
81 get some more information.

82 Ms. Harnois would like to work on getting the speed limit changed to 45mph on Highway 27 on either side of
83 the town entrance. Council agreed.

84 STAFF REPORTS

85 Public Works

86 - Mr. Thompson reported that Council may have to consider placing a moratorium on sewer
87 connections before long. It is still unclear what capacity the lagoons are at until the sewer study
88 is completed. We will have more information after a meeting with JUB Engineers tomorrow.
89 - Mr. Thompson received lagoon violation letters from the Department of Ecology. These
90 violations are explainable and will also be reconsidered after the sewer study is complete.

91 Clerk/Treasurer

92 - Mrs. Johnson reported that the 2023-2024 audit with the State Auditors is complete. There were
93 no management letters or findings during the audit and they only had one recommendation to
94 increase cyber security.
95 - The past due list was reviewed.
96 - **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the October Utility Bill Adjustment Report. Mr.
97 Fricke seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
98 - Mrs. Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report, stating the total amount of all funds at the end of
99 October was \$899,199.86.
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107 PUBLIC COMMENT

108 - Resident Ron Reinhardt mentioned that there was a suspicious person walking up North Street
109 by the well on Sunday and suggested keeping an eye out.

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111 APPROVE CHECKS

112 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 19217-19240 and 3 EFTs for a total of \$62,931.21.**

113 **Mr. Whitman seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

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

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118 Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

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