

1 **Rockford Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting**
2 **October 20, 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 pro-tem Tim Fricke called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00pm, stating that its purpose was to take
9 input on increasing the EMS property tax levy. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson said that the amount of the
10 increase would be 1% of the previous year, totaling an additional \$146.11.

11 Resident Jennie Hagen said that she appreciates the Fire Department/EMS and thinks the increase is a
12 good idea.

13 Councilmember Micki Harnois asked if the increase will be on the February ballot. Mrs. Johnson said no, this
14 is for an existing levy and doesn't need voter approval.

15 There was no additional public comment, and the hearing was closed at 7:04pm.
16

17 Mr. Fricke called the second public hearing to order at 7:10pm, stating that its purpose was to take input on
18 increasing the regular property tax levy. Mrs. Johnson said that the amount of the increase would be 1%
19 more than last years levy, totaling an additional \$758.29.

20 Resident Mark Lonam asked if that is the total for the whole year. Mrs. Johnson said yes, that would be the
21 amount the town collects for the entire year.

22 Councilmember Micki Harnois asked if the increase will be on the February ballot. Mrs. Johnson said no, it
23 will be the same as the EMS levy.

24 There was no additional public comment, and the hearing was closed at 7:12pm
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26 Mr. Fricke called the regular meeting to order at 7:12pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

27 Mr. Fricke stated that Mayor Carrie Roecks was not feeling well so he would be running the meeting.
28

29 Roll call took place. Those in attendance were, Mayor pro-tem/Councilmember Tim Fricke, Councilmembers
30 Clint Stevenson, Micki Harnois, and Brian Laude. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Johnson and Public Works' Dave
31 Thompson were also in attendance. Councilmember Rachelle Arriaga was absent.
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33 **Ms. Harnois made a motion to excuse Rachelle Arriaga from the meeting, due to work. Mr. Laude**
34 **seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
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36 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Laude seconded the motion.**
37 **Motion was carried.**
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39 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/06/2021 public hearing and regular**
40 **meeting. Mr. Laude seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
41

42 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 43 - There will be a public hearing and a special meeting for the preliminary budget on 11/10/2021 at
44 7pm.
45

46 **COUNCIL REPORTS**

47 Ms. Harnois stated that she was in Chelan last week to attend the RMSA/AWC Member Expo, for which she
48 received a \$500 dollar safety grant for the town. She said they were highly recommending using the grant
49 for cyber security protection. Ms. Harnois also attended the IACC Conference via Zoom. She said they had
50 mentioned a municipality could qualify for a loan for equipment purchase through the State Treasurer's
51 Office. The loans offered there are less than ½% interest and the equipment would just need to be certified
52 by a mechanic showing a 5–7-year lifespan.

53 COMMISSION REPORTS - None

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55 COMMITTEE REPORTS

56 Tree City

57 Ms. Harnois said she plans to go pickup some trees to plant and would like to know when a good time to
58 have an Arbor Day would be. Mr. Stevenson said they would plant the trees right away and then plan for an
59 Arbor Day when the mayor was available.

60

61 CDBG Board

62 Ms. Harnois said that there is still a vacancy on the CDBG board, and it would be good for Rockford to have
63 representation. She said she thinks Ms. Roecks might enjoy being on the board.

64

65 Finance Committee

66 Mr. Fricke said that the committee met last week to go over some preliminary budget items. One thing that
67 really stuck out was the amount of benefits and wages that other small towns are offering their staff. He
68 thinks that, if it can be done, Council needs to take a big step in getting more comparable wages. Mr.
69 Stevenson agreed, saying that the wages need to be better if they would like to keep the current staff from
70 leaving for another town. Mr. Stevenson also said it would be good for Council to have a copy of the wage
71 comparison for the budget meeting.

72

73 PUBLIC COMMENT

74 Jennie Hagen asked Ms. Harnois if the loan she was talking about earlier could be used to purchase a pick-
75 up. Ms. Harnois said yes.

76

77 ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

78 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve Resolution 21-10, increasing the EMS levy. Ms. Harnois**
79 **seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

80

81 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve Resolution 21-11, increasing the regular property tax levy.**
82 **Mr. Laude seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

83

84 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve Resolution 21-12, amending the fee schedule. Ms. Harnois**
85 **seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

86

87 **Ms. Harnois made a motion to approve Resolution 21-13, the sole source purchase of a 1975 CAT**
88 **grader, pending submittal of proof of rebuilt motor. Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion. Motion was**
89 **carried.**

90

91 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve Resolution 21-14, surplus of the 1967 Galion grader. Mr.**
92 **Laude seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**

93

94 OLD BUSINESS - None

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96 NEW BUSINESS

97 Economic Development Meeting

98 Ms. Roecks received an email asking for Council to meet with the Commissioners Office regarding
99 Economic Development. It was the consensus of the council to have them attend a regular meeting.

100

101 Variance Request – 130 E Lake Street

102 Mr. Thompson informed Council that there has been variance request from resident Leah Erlenbush. She
103 would like to have a variance on the side yard setbacks of her current home. Council agreed to set a public
104 hearing for November 3, 2021, before the regular meeting.

105

106 Archive Grant Agreement
107 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to accept the agreement with the Secretary of State to receive grant**
108 **funds for archiving. Ms. Harnois seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
109

110 STAFF REPORTS

111 Public Works

- 112 - Mr. Thompson reported that the bathrooms have been winterized and sprinklers blown out.
113 - There has been some road grading completed around town. Public Works will continue to work on
114 the roads if we continue to get rain.
115

116 Clerk/Treasurer

- 117 - Mrs. Johnson asked if Mr. Marcalus could cash out his excess vacation, plus one week.
118 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to pay Patrick 71.80 hours of his banked vacation. Ms. Harnois**
119 **seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
120 - Mrs. Johnson reminded Council that they should decide if we wanted to bring ArchiveSocial on
121 board to help capture information on social media accounts. Mr. Laude said try to fit it into the
122 budget and we can talk about it at the budget workshop on November 10th.
123

124 PUBLIC COMMENT

- 125 - Resident Ivan Willmschen asked about the check that was paid to the Department of Ecology. Mrs.
126 Johnson said that it was for the old lagoon loan from 1999, which will be paid off next year.
127 - Mr. Willmschen asked if there is any news on the past due accounts. Mrs. Johnson said payments
128 are trickling in.
129 - Ms. Hagen asked if ArchiveSocial helps with public records requests. Mrs. Johnson said yes.
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131 APPROVE CHECKS

132 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve checks 17238-17257 and three EFTs for a total of**
133 **\$27,277.58. Mr. Fricke seconded the motion. Motion was carried.**
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135 **Mr. Stevenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Laude seconded the motion. Motion was**
136 **carried.**
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138 The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.
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Heidi Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Carrie Roecks, Mayor