

Village of Rapids City
December 9th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Rock Island, County, Illinois

This Regular Board meeting was called to order by President Mire at 6:33pm

Roll Call:

Physically Present – Peschang, Fowler, Fiems, and Polenske

Absent – Robertson and DeMarlie

Others Physically Present – Clerk Housenga, Attorney James Zmuda, Carrie and Rick Riley, Lt. Mosely (left at 8:55pm), Deputy Dsemyster, Chad Johnson of USD Water Solutions, Public Works Director Bump, Treasurer Barber, Kathy Peschang, Kathy Sattizahn (left at 8:54pm)

Others Virtually Present – None.

A quorum was physically established.

CONSENT “Omnibus” Agenda: Fiems motioned to approve 11/10/2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, 12/2025 Monthly Bills totaling \$72,368.71 and Treasure’s Report for 11/2025; Polenske seconded. All present board members voted yes, motion passes.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Kathy Sattizahn requested new street signs to be placed on 1st Avenue as she states they are in disarray and unreadable. Ryan will verify the state of the signage and replace as needed.

Sattizahn also provided an update as to the progress of building on the lot she owns along 1st Avenue for her staycation four-unit complex which she plans to name “The Rapids”.

Chad Johnson of USD Water Solutions once again presented a water tower rehab and maintenance program. Johnson states also addressed any questions board members and Zmuda had concerning the contract previously drafted. Mire requested Housenga reach out to MSA Professional Services Representatives to gather additional information pertaining to water tank rehab and maintenance portions of the service agreement and if they are compatible with the SRF Funding program. Johnson will have the USG Office Staff email a certificate of liability insurance to Clerk Housenga. Additionally, Johnson will address concerns related to risk mediation and cancelation terms with his legal staff and prepare them for communications with Attorney Zmuda.

PRESIDENT – Mire: Mire addressed the police protection referenda ordinance and Certification of Ballot topic reading both documents in whole. The question and ordinance would allow for the Village to tax the police protection portion of the tax levy for the Village portion only to increase to 0.60% from 0.075%. Mire reaffirmed that the full 0.60% increase would not be utilized as our contract is approximately \$80,000.00. Mire did note the Village Attorney reviewed the verbiage and state statute regarding the ballot question prior to presenting. Fowler motioned to pass the presented document named “Ordinance For Referendum Seeking A Binding Opinion On The Question Of Shall A Tax Rate Not To Exceed 0.60% Be Levied Each Year On The Taxable Property In The Village Of Rapids City For The Purpose Of Police Protection Be Allowed In The Village Of Rapids City” and associated Certification Of Ballot. Peschang seconded the motion all present board members voted yes. Motion carries.

Mire also noted he will be holding the Town Hall Meetings to review with the residents in a manner that is nonbiased to answer and address concerns with the Police Referenda Question and current contract for police protection. Mire invited the board members and made it a point to note that these meetings will not be board meetings but as citizens they are welcome to attend.

POLICE REPORT: No report was presented. Deputy Dsemyster explained the Citizens Policing Academy Program held by the Rock Island County Sheriff’s Department. Mire requested the details of the program by the Rock Island Sheriff’s Department to be shared on the Village’s Facebook page.

ATTORNEY – Califf & Harper P.C.: Nothing new to discuss.

FIRE REPORT – Chief Carey: Report reviewed as presented.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Report as presented.

INFRASTRUCTURE (Public Works, Water, Sewer & Garbage) – Robertson: Nothing to report at this time.

PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY – Polenske: Polenske asked if an update was available on the area of our property near the boat dock at Schuler’s Shady Grove, that a

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neighboring resident took down trees on Village property. To date no update is available per Clerk Housenga.

VIDEO GAMING, COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENT PLANNING – Fowler: Fowler reported gaming revenues received this last month were \$4,471.68.

Fowler reported the 2025 Annual Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon held on November 19th had the best attendance turn out yet, elaborating that she was very pleased with the event. Mire also thanked everyone involved with planning the event for their hard work.

Fowler reminded everyone that the Rapids City Fire Protection District will be driving Santa around town on December 13th, 2025 from 10am to noon.

ORDINANCE, LICENSES, BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING – Peschang: Peschang once again reviewed with the board of the specifics of a Planning and Zoning request from Carrie & Rick Riley for the property located at 1620 1st Avenue, PIN# 0902102015. The request is to rezone from R-1 to R-2 for the purpose of using a home they currently own as a short-term rental unit. The Planning and Zoning Commission made a recommendation to pass the rezoning of 1620 1st Avenue, Rapids City, IL. No protests to the request were received from abutting property owners. After a request from board members to have Legal Counsel explore validity of probational or conditional zoning changes Peschang motioned to allow conditional R-2 zoning for property located at 1620 1st Avenue, PIN # 0902102015 with specifically stating once the Riley's no longer own the property the zoning will revert to R-1 classification. Fiems seconded the motion. All present board members voted yes, motion carries.

Fowler motioned to approve a revision to Title IX, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4 of the Zoning Ordinance with updating the definition of Short Term Rental to read "A dwelling unit that is rented as or held out as being used as a shared housing unit or vacation rental for at least two nights with a maximum of 30 days." Fiems seconded the motion; Polenske, Fowler, and Fiems voted yes; Peschang voted no. Motion carries.

FINANCE – DeMarlie: Housenga reported for DeMarlie a thank you card was received from Diane Tittle for the Village offer and hospitality to its residents.

Clerk Housenga gave an update on the audit proceedings for the village with the new auditor Lauterbach & Amen and the lack of progress with the previous auditor Odoni Partners. The board has authorized Zmuda to send correspondence to Odoni requesting documents the Village has paid for in relation to the FY23 audit.

PERSONNEL & PUBLIC SAFETY – Fiems: Fiems once again reviewed with the board options for medical insurance renewal for employees Bump, Meier and Housenga. After verification with Lohman Companies of covered providers Fiems motioned to approve insurance policy BCBSIL-P5E1BCE. Fowler seconded the motion. All present members voted yes, motion carries.

ELECTIONS – Mire: Mire reminded everyone of the March 18th, 2026 election and that early voting will begin on February 5th, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS: Lt. Dsemyter introduced himself and announced his intention of running for Rock Island County Sheriff and asked for support.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Clerk Housenga provided the Regular Board Meeting Schedule and Office Closure Schedule for the 2026 year.

The Fiems motioned to adjourn this regular board meeting at 9:02pm. Peschang seconded the motion. All other board members agreed.

Missy M. Housenga
Village Clerk