

# Rockford Community Newsletter



**Merry Christmas Rockford! We wish you a season filled with family, love, and joy!**

## **Rockford History**

Prewar settlement in Rockford – Excerpt from the Story of Rockford by Michael Vala

Not all survived the blizzards, floods, droughts and the prairie fires of the western frontier.

The weather was really no more severe than it was at any other time (although in 1858 settlers in Rockford experienced temperatures from 44 degrees below in January to 110 degrees in August.) Radically different were these pioneers' means of protection against the harsh weather. Prairie fires were frequent and always destructive, especially one on October 1,

1862, which was general throughout Floyd county and nearly annihilated the Rockford settlement. In fact, 1862 was probably one of the most critical years in Rockford's history. In addition to the fire, the winter had been particularly rough. A good portion of Rockford's able men were fighting Confederates hundreds of miles away in the South, Furthermore the Sioux were threatening total war following the massacre of settlers at New Ulm and Fort Ridgely, Minnesota, only a few miles north of Rockford.

Most discouraging, of course, were the deaths in the pioneer families. The toll was often high. The first known death in Rockford was that of Mrs. Fleming Dewitt in 1854, only months after the Dewitt family had settled.

## Rockford City Council Minutes

ROCKFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2021 7:30 P.M

1. The Rockford City Council met in regular session at the Rockford Community Center to help ensure adequate space for social distancing on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Council Members Johnson, Hoffarth, Hirv, Stokes with Arndt absent. Citizens present were Jerry Schlader, Kevin Tegtmeier, Sharon Enabnit, Angie Johnson, Darlene Eaton, Liz Enabnit and Brent Medlin at 7:32 p.m. Employees present were Randy Schweizer and Daniel Paulus.

Motion Stokes, sec. Hirv to approve the posted agenda. Passed all ayes roll call vote.

2. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Stokes to approve the consent agenda consisting of October 19<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes, monthly reports, claims and expenses. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. Discussion was held regarding railroad crossing stop signs. Tabled until later meeting.
4. Discussion was held on Sewer/Lagoon Project.
5. Discussion was held on Water Tower Project.
6. Motion Stokes, sec. Hirv to approve Miller's Lawn Care for the 2022 spraying. All ayes. Motion carried.
7. Motion Stokes, sec. Hirv to approve Option C from the four options that the City's Attorney Laird Law Firm suggested to move forward for the property at 109 West Main. All ayes. Motion carried.
8. Motion Johnson, sec. Hirv to approve bill from Delmer Fenton for public works city truck tires for \$694.40. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Discussion was held on the tiling and fixing of eaves troughs & gutters at the Rockford Public Library.
10. Motion Hoffarth, sec. Johnson to approve Scott Gruis to sandblast, repair & clear coat the DX sign for \$1,800.00 and for Catherine Dow to paint the new logo. All ayes. Motion carried.
11. Motion Johnson, sec. Hirv to approve Mayor Johnson to sign Letter of Support for the Shell Rock River Watershed Coalition. All ayes. Motion carried.
12. Angie Johnson with Grow discussed with the council how much money was left from the street lighting project. Darlene Eaton with Grow discussed with the council that they will be disposing the old flower barrels.
13. Motion Johnson, sec. Hirv to approve the Annual Financial Report. All ayes. Motion carried.
14. Employee Daniel Paulus requested a closed session as per state Code Section 21.5, sub-sections (I).  
  
Motion Hoffarth, sec. Stokes to enter into closed session at 8:31 p.m. Passed all ayes roll call vote.  
  
Motion Johnson, sec. Stokes to open session at 8:44 p.m. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
15. Motion Johnson, sec. Hirv to approve Resolution #2021-21 Setting wage increase for employee Daniel Paulus - Public Works Assistant with approval for a \$2.00 per hour raise beginning this current payroll. Passed all ayes roll call vote.
16. Public Works Assistant Daniel Paulus discussed sewer lagoons, library tiling, getting equipment ready for snow, lighting project and cutting of trees.
17. Mayor Johnson discussed 911 Board, Emergency Management & Floyd County meetings.
18. Council discussed for the monthly council meetings to start meeting in the council chambers again starting at the next meeting.
19. Motion Hirv, sec. Johnson to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

## What's happening

Elections for RRMR school board and City of Rockford were held Tuesday November 2, 2021. The results for City of Rockford, office of Mayor and 3 City Council Member-at large seats. RRMR two School board at large seats.

### Mayor Candidate results:

**Scott Johnson** 159 votes

### City Council Member Candidates:

Brent W. Medlin 109 votes  
Jerome H. Schlader 150 votes  
Sharon Enabnit 137 votes  
Kevin Tegtmeier 84 votes  
RRMR School Board Director at Large results:

Justin Abell 213 votes  
Tammie Hirv 189 votes  
Bobbi Hinrichsen 168 votes  
Courtney Ritter 110 votes  
Spencer Rooney 82 votes  
Congratulations to Scott Johnson, Jerome Shlader, Sharon Enabnit, Brent Medlin, Justin Abell, and Tammie Hirv.

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New stop signs were installed at all railroad crossings in town. Trains are going faster through town. Look and obey the new signs.

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North Central Iowa Genealogy Society (NCIGS) located at 75 S. Georgia, Mason City. The research room is open 9:00a-4:00p Mondays-Saturday. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2022, topic to be determined.

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The library is hosting a Book Club Wednesday December 17 at 2:00pm. The book title is The Christmas List. Discussion and snacks will be provided. Story hour for children is every Saturday at 10:30am. The library has a community survey for Rockford. They would like your participation. The survey is on the library's facebook page, or a paper survey can be picked up at the library. New Wednesday hours starting Dec 1 2021 are 12:00p-6:30p. The library will be closed Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

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RRMR will host two Holiday Concerts in the Big Gym. Dec 6, at 7:00p for grades 6-8 and Dec 13, at 7:00p for grades 9-12.

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## Rockford Congregate Meals

202 W Main Avenue

Meals are held Monday - Friday at Rockford City Hall / Community Center.

For more information, please call [\(641\) 756-3581](tel:641-756-3581)

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**Welcome to Rockford!** Joshua and Samantha Bulman moved to Rockford in November. Welcome to the community; we hope you thrive here. We are happy you chose Rockford as your home.

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## Obituaries

**John Leo Miller, Sr.** John was born on September 11, 1940, passed away on Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

**Marvelle Marie Squire** was born on July 28, 1929, passed away Sunday, November 14, 2021.

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Saturday evening November 27, a fire burned the H E Trettin Hog business office and storage building. The buildings are a total loss. Rockford, Marble Rock, Rudd, Nora Springs, and Floyd fire departments battled the fire, saving the nearby feed mill. No injuries have been reported. The cause of the fire is unknown.



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Grow Rockford Together will have the next meeting at City Hall Council Chambers on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.

Peg Huisman picked up the new barrels for the flowers next year. Thank you to the city for purchasing the new barrels.

Thank you to Jan Lukes, Rollie Harden, Jerry Schlader, Jean Buseman, and Sandi Willman for trimming the grasses on the boulevard. The old barrels have been picked up, thank you Gil Eaton. The boulevard is ready for winter and thanks to the city team, all decked out for Christmas. Rockford is looking very festive.

We would like to thank Pat Sinning and Ginny Young for their generous donations of paper for printing the Newsletter. It is appreciated.

Please send advertising requests (rates are very reasonable) and news items to Darlene Eaton at [darangels@comcast.net](mailto:darangels@comcast.net).

Monetary donations can be made at First Security bank to Grow Rockford. Note the donation is for the Newsletter.

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At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.

Thomas Tusser




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**Mark, Andrew, Whitney and Sheile for all your insurance and real estate needs**

To place an advertisement or have an upcoming event published in the monthly newsletter, please email [darangels@comcast.net](mailto:darangels@comcast.net) or call Darlene Eaton at 641-756-2441

**PRSRT STD  
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**Rockford Newsletter  
December 2021**

**LOCAL POSTAL  
CUSTOMER**

### **Rockford Churches**

#### **First United Methodist Church**

21 3rd St NW

Online services only or on Facebook

[641-756-2360](tel:641-756-2360)

#### **ZION Lutheran Church**

805 East Main Ave

Worship 10:30am Sundays

[641-756-3850](tel:641-756-3850)

#### **Holy Name Catholic Church**

507 1ST Ave NW

Mass 5:30 pm on Saturdays

[641-756-3569](tel:641-756-3569)

### **Rockford Public Library**

202 W Main Avenue

[641-756-3725](tel:641-756-3725)

Open: Monday – Friday 1:00 – 5:30 P.M. and Saturday 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Open: Wednesday till 7:00 P.M.

### **Rockford Community Center**

206 West Main Avenue

Call for Reservations [\(641\) 756-3718](tel:641-756-3718)