

Mayor — Richard Petersen  
 Council Member — Mark Brosz  
 Council Member — Lois Fingalsen  
 Council Member — Doug Heimer  
 Council Member — Brian Vanderploeg  
 Council Member — Jodi Wyborny



## ROCK FALLS AREA BETTERMENT ANNUAL MEETING

### DOG COMPLAINTS

A major item for discussion at the February 12 City Council meeting concerned dog complaints. The public was urged to attend the February meeting to provide input on both sides of the issue of dogs behaving as a nuisance. Only 3 persons attended the meeting, but the council was most appreciative to those who came and voiced their opinions.

Following the instance of a citizen in Marble Rock bringing over 2 dozen dogs into the city limits, the Rock Falls ordinance that regulates dogs was examined by the city attorney. The attorney felt that the Rock Falls ordinance was broad enough to cover such an instance from a health, safety, and nuisance standpoint. No amendments are necessary.

The Council discussed a policy procedure for addressing nuisance complaints concerning dogs. When City Hall receives a complaint regarding a dog, a complaint form will be provided to document the nuisance, the offender, and the complainant. City Hall will render to the offender a notice to abate the nuisance by a specified date.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 12, 2007

The annual meeting of the Rock Falls Area Betterment, Inc. will be held at the Community Center on Wednesday, March 7, at 7:00 P.M. All Rock Falls citizens are urged to attend. The Betterment group exists to keep the Community Center alive and well. Many out-of-towners have commented how lucky Rock Falls is to have saved the school building for use as a community center. But it takes more than luck to preserve and maintain such an asset. The building and grounds have expenses and require maintenance. Therefore, the purpose of the Betterment organization is raise funds to pay expenses and to oversee usage of the property.

The annual meeting is set once a year for community input and to inform the public about the operations of the Center and plans for the coming months. One problem that the Betterment group continually struggles with is that of manpower.



If the nuisance continues past the date, the complaint will be delivered to the county sheriff or county health department for prosecution. Such prosecution could result in impoundment of the offending dog and/or fines as high as \$500.

Dog owners should be reminded that the Rock Falls dog ordinance requires that all dogs have proper vaccinations

Like many organizations, the same few people tend to carry the burden for the entire operation. The Betterment group conducts a number of events throughout the year, the largest of which is Fun Days in August. In addition, the Center is used by several auction companies throughout the year where the Community Center provides a concession stand. The Betterment group needs volunteers to help with concession sales and with Fun Days committees. The Board also informs that there is a need for pies and dessert bars for the auction concessions. The Community Center is booked every weekend through March for auctions. Please call Lowell Johnson or Gary Dockum for information about volunteering and/or baking a few treats. The auction patrons really rave about the home-baked treats they find in Rock Falls.

Many folks who attend the Rock Falls auctions find Rock



and carry the proper vaccination tags of compliance. The ordinance governing the care and control of dogs can be found on the Rock Falls website [www.rockfallsiowa.com](http://www.rockfallsiowa.com) under Chapter 4 of the City Code.



Falls "a fascinating little town". These events provide great concession sales and help keep our community center "in the black". So, if everyone pitches in, the job is much easier. "Many hands make light work."

There are presently a couple of openings on the Board of Directors. Anyone interested should contact Gary Dockum, president of the Board. Coffee and snacks will be available in the council chamber for the annual meeting. Let's have a great turnout to show the Betterment group that the Community Center is appreciated and important for the future of Rock Falls!!

Congratulations to Cole Heimer on the 1A wrestling championship! Cole is the son of Doug and Jeannie Heimer.

Check out Rock Falls Web Site!

[www.rockfallsiowa.com](http://www.rockfallsiowa.com)

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