

TOWN OF ROSSVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR OF BOARD AND ALDERMEN  
380 Morrison Road  
Rossville, TN 38066

January 14, 2020

Visitors: Edgar Babian, Dave Hamric, Tim Verner, David Baker, Karen Pennington, Betty Mullis, Connie Chambers, Guy Moore, Ted Wiencek, and Nim Aldrich.

Present: Mayor Judy Watters, Suzy Gray, Michael Swessell, Doug Kranz, Bobby Williams, and Cindi Rutledge. Zach Moore was absent.

Mayor Watters called the public hearing to order at 6:15 p.m. for Ordinance 2019-008, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville amending the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget passed by ordinance 2019-002. Mayor Watters called the public hearing to end at 6:30 p.m. and the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board to order.

Bobby Williams gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters asked for citizen comments regarding agenda items only. Betty Mullis addressed the Board regarding the agenda item regarding the Sales and Use tax increase. Mrs. Mullis stated that this was voted against last year and was concerned why it was being brought up again. Mrs. Mullis also questioned the water loss and asked if the citizens could do anything to help. Mayor Watters stated that both concerns will be addressed during the meeting.

Mayor Watters asked the Board if they had any non-agenda items they would like to add, none were suggested from the Board. Mayor Watters asked to amend the agenda by adding a request to apply for a Tennessee Downtown Program Grant.

Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the amended agenda, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the December 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting were approved with a motion from Mike Swessell, a second from Doug Kranz and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the January 6, 2020 Special Called Meeting were approved with a motion from Bobby Williams, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Chief Hamric reported there were 33 calls, one arrest, 125 citations, 50 warnings, and 4 incident reports for the month of December for the Police Department.

Edgar Babian reported there was a total of 3 fire calls, 3 service calls, and 20 medical calls with a response time of 9:16 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of December.

Joseph Howell reported there was a 27.2% water loss for the month of December. Mr. Howell stated that there was another leak on Railroad street that was repaired and that he was working on a solution.

Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board on the improvements to the sewer main on the east side of town. Mr. Verner recommended that the town move forward by advertising for the construction bids for the sewage force main extension that will connect the existing Huntington Pointe sewage pumping station to the wastewater lagoon. Mr. Verner suggested that the Town have a projection date to open bids on February 20, 2020 and construction date to start April 10, 2020. Mr. Verner updated the Board of Alderman about the contract with Norfolk Southern to allow the Town to bore under the railroad to connect the force main. Mr. Verner stated that once the contractor provides Norfolk the certificate of liability insurance the town will receive the signed contract to proceed.

Mayor Watters asked Mr. Verner if he could get together bids to fix the drainage issues in the Bailey Ridge Subdivision. She asked if this could be grouped together as one project. Mr. Verner stated that he could get that together for late February.

David Baker presented the planning and zoning updates. Mr. Baker stated the Planning Commission met to discuss the signage for Rossville Reserve and review a site plan for Get Gone Auto. Mr. Baker stated that the application from Rossville Reserve to allow a sign feature with a maximum height of 8' was approved with the exception that all the correct permits and constructions plans must be submitted. Mr. Baker stated that they reviewed a site plan for Get Gone Auto. The application was tabled that was supposed to correct some violations with the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Baker stated that the plans they submitted did include any landscaping plans, screening for vehicles, parking areas, and a clear area for dumpster screening. Mr. Baker stated that this was tabled until the revised site plan is submitted by Get Gone Auto.

Under Old Business, Second Reading on Ordinance 2019-008, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville amending the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget passed by ordinance 2019-002. Mike Swessell made the motion to accept on second reading Ordinance 2019-008, a second from Cindi Rutledge and a unanimous vote.

Under new business, Chief Hamric brought before the Mayor and Board a Community Policing Development Program Grant. Chief Hamric stated this grant will allow the Town to hire officers and reimburse the Town for their salaries for 3 years. He stated that the grant writer is looking into this for him and he needed permission from the Board to proceed with the application process. Cindi Rutledge made the motion for Chief Hamric to apply for the Community Policing Development Program Grant, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Judy Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen replacement of Board of Zoning and Appeals member Joe Bielli. Mayor Watters stated that Mr. Bielli had recently moved and asked the Board if they had any nominations. Brian Baird was nominated by Mayor Watters, and she stated that his term will expire in January 2023. Bobby Williams made the motion to make Brian Baird a member of the BZA, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Tim Verner brought before the Mayor and Board the request from Magnolia Homes to release the letter of credit for Saunders Creek Phase 1C. Mr. Verner stated that the letter of credit was for \$100,000 and he recommended that the Town release it. Bobby Williams made the motion to release the letter of credit for Saunders Creek Phase 1C, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Joseph Howell addressed the Mayor and Board to address the water loss rate. Mr. Howell stated that the line on Railroad street continues to leak and they have had to make major repairs to the line that feeds water to only one house and a barn. Mr. Howell stated that he and Tim Verner are discussing alternatives for this. One option is to deadline the main and run two hydrants, one to the house and the other to the barn. This would qualify as an emergency repair and the cost to replace the line would be approximately \$15,000. Bobby Williams made the motion to replace the line on Railroad Street, a second from Doug Kranz and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters updated the Board of Aldermen on the upcoming infrastructure needs for the Water and Sewer Department. Mayor Watters stated that the water and sewer infrastructure is stressed and failing in some locations. The water and sewer lines were installed in the 60's and will need to replace in the upcoming years. Mayor Watters stated that the Town just spent a million dollars to upgrade the water plant and will need to install a new water tower to service the expected growth that Rossville is experiencing. State accounting laws require that the water and sewer expenditures are funded solely from funds designated for that expense and that fund must maintain a positive balance. Mayor Watters stated that the income for this fund is solely from the water/sewer fees paid by the customers. Our current sewer rates are lower than the water rates and it is more expensive to maintain the sewage system. Mayor Watters proposed to the Board that they consider a possible increase to the sewer rates from a minimum rate of \$11.28 to \$12.63 and an increase to the first 1000 gallons from \$1.88 to \$3.02. This was tabled for review by the Board for discussion.

Mayor Watters updated the Board of Alderman on the general fund needs and the decrease the Town has experienced in property taxes. Mayor Watters stated that since Kellogg's has downsized and Norfolk Southern has depreciated assets the property taxes have had a significant decrease. Mayor Watters stated there are two options to fund this decrease, one is an increase in property taxes and the other and increase to the sales and use tax. Mayor Watters stated that increasing the sales tax would generate approximately \$44,000 with a minimal impact to residents.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen Ordinance 2020-001, an Ordinance to raise the sales and use tax in the Town of Rossville from 2.25% to 2.75% and to request a referendum of the people to approve the ordinance. Cindi Rutledge made the motion to approve Ordinance 2020-001, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Last on the agenda, Mayor Watters updated the Board of Aldermen on Tennessee downtown Program Grant. Mayor Watters stated that this is a \$15,000 grant with no match from the Town. Mayor Watters stated these dollars can be used for signage or sidewalks and will be available next January. Mike Swessell made the motion to proceed with the Tennessee Downtown Program Grant, a second from Doug Kranz and a unanimous vote.

Mike Swessell made the motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. All in favor.

Karen Pennington  
Town Recorder

Motion: Cindi Rutledge  
February 11, 2020

Second: Suzy Gray  
February 11, 2020

Approved: Judy Watters, Mayor