

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

February 11, 2020

Visitors: Edgar Babian, Dave Hamric, Tim Verner, Lorie Rice, Karen Pennington, Betty Mullis, Mrs. McElroy, Ann Goodwin, and Ann Aukerman.

Present: Mayor Judy Watters, Suzy Gray, Zach Moore, and Cindi Rutledge. Bobby Williams, Doug Kranz, and Mike Swessell were absent. A quorum was established.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen and the public about the passing of Butch Rhea. Mayor Watters stated that Mr. Rhea will be greatly missed and asked for a moment of silence before the meeting began.

Chief Hamric gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters asked for citizen comments regarding agenda items only. None were suggested. Mayor Watters called for non-agenda items and the Board suggested none. Mayor Watters asked to add the approval of the financials from December 2019. Suzy Gray made the motion to approve the amended agenda, a second from Zach Moore and a unanimous vote.

Lorie Rice presented the financials for December 2019 and January 2020. Cindi Rutledge made the motion to approve December and January financials, a second from Zach Moore and unanimous vote.

Chief Hamric reported there were 31 calls, one arrest, 89 citations, 38 warnings, 2 crashes and 2 incident reports for the month of February for the Police Department.

Edgar Babian reported a total of 6 fire calls and 29 medical calls with a response time of 5:29 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of February.

Joseph Howell reported there was a 25.8% water loss for the month of February. Mr. Howell stated that Hardeman Fayette hit a water line at Rossville Express that had to be repaired. The water line on Railroad Street is still has a small leak that continues to contribute to some of the water loss. Aldermen Zach Moore asked when the repairs would be made to the yard that incurred a water leak on Main Street. Mr. Howell stated the work would be completed as the ground dries up some.

Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board on the improvements to the sewer main on the east side of town. Mr. Verner stated that he has received at least four bids so far and hoping more will come in before the closing date. Mr. Verner stated that we have been talking to engineers about the improvements to the Bailey Ridge Subdivision and hoping to have a surveyor out soon when weather permits so he can start the bid packets. Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the Downtown Parking plans and stated the irrigation plans have been submitted to the contractor.

Minutes from the January 14, 2020 regular meeting of the Mayor of Board and Aldermen were approved with a motion from Cindi Rutledge, a second from Suzy Gray and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters opened the public hearing for citizen's comments on 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. Mayor Watters stated that if any citizens have any comments, they are free to express them now. Resident Betty Mullis stated that she appreciated the feedback from the January meeting and understood more clearly what the increase would be going to. Her concern was if the decrease in revenue is a current issue or is this a future concern. Mrs. Mullis asked if the decrease in the Mayor's salary of \$18,000 proposed for November 2020 will offset the loss in property tax revenue or if increasing the sales tax is the only option.

Mayor Watters stated that Kellogg's operations have decreased over the past 3-4 years and as a result, the personal property taxes have decreased. Mayor Watters stated although the Town's real estate tax is increasing as a result of residential growth, the personal property taxes from commercial businesses continue to decrease. Mayor Watters addressed the salary decrease for the Mayor position. Although those funds will be available to support other needs, there may be a requirement to increase staffing to support the administrative growth requirements. The sales tax increase is the least invasive for our residents and will provide an immediate source of funds. Mayor Watters closed the public hearing.

Under Old Business, Second Reading on 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. Zach Moore made the motion to approve Ordinance 2020-001 on second reading, a second from Suzy Gray and unanimous vote.

Joseph Howell addressed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen about the replacement of the main on Railroad Street. Mr. Howell was asked to get prices for the emergency repair of Railroad Street. Original estimates were approximately \$15,000; however, the lowest price received is \$19,000. Mr. Howell asked for Mayor and Board approval to replace the line with the amount of \$19,000. Suzy Gray made the motion, a second from Zach Moore and a unanimous vote.

Joseph Howell updated the Mayor and Board of the water tap to new construction on Second Street, Mr. Howell stated the house is being built on the East side of the street and there is nowhere to tap the sewer into. Mr. Howell stated that we do not have the manpower or the tools to complete the installation of a new line. The line will have to go under the road, and he has been quoted a price in the amount of \$8,000 and this does not include gravel to repair the road. Cindy Rutledge made the motion to approve, a second from Zach Moore and a unanimous vote.

Under new business, Mayor Watters informed the Board that a very generous donor who would like to pay to replace the roof and paint the Gazebo in Lafayette Park has contacted her. Mayor Watters stated that we need approval to accept the funds. Cindi Rutledge made the motion, a second from Zack Moore and unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters stated that Alderwomen Suzy Gray has graciously agreed to take on the Smokin' on the Wolf BBQ event and she asked Board approval to proceed with the process of getting the stuff started for the BBQ event. Zach Moore made the motion, a second from Cindi Rutledge and unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters stated that last month the Board approved to proceed with the TN Development Grant. This grant process is extremely time consuming and does not offer all that was expected. Mayor Watters asked for Board approval to abandon the application of the TN Development Grant. Cindi Rutledge made the motion, a second from Zack Moore and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters made the motion to adjourn at 7:15, all in favor.

Karen Pennington
Town Recorder

Motion: Suzy Gray
March 10, 2020

Second: Doug Kranz
March 10, 2020

Approved: Judy Watters, Mayor