

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

July 9, 2020

Visitors: Edgar Babian, Dave Hamric, Tim Verner, Lorie Rice, Karen Pennington, Connie Chambers, Betty Mullis, Sandra Wright, Doug Swink, Donnie Culver, Matthew Fulcher, Cole Stonebrook, Carolyn Rhea, Mike and Lisa Thomas, and Sherrie Rhinehart. After capacity visitors called in Sondra and Keith Webb, Nancy Singleton, and Mary Etta Hallewell.

All Board members present.

Mayor Watters called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Bobby Williams gave the invocation.

Mayor Watters asked for citizen comments regarding agenda items only. None were suggested.

Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the agenda, a second from Suzy Gray and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the June 9<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting were approved with a motion from Zach Moore, a second from Mike Swessell and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2020-008, an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Rossville to amend certain provisions of Article VII related to political signage. With no comments from the citizens, the public hearing was closed.

Lorie Rice presented the financials for June 2020. Bobby Williams made the motion to accept the financials for June, a second from Zach Moore.

Chief Hamric reported there were 67 calls, 142 citation charges, 31 warnings, 4 crashes and 7 incident reports for the month of June for the Police Department.

Edgar Babian reported a total of 4 fire calls, 22 medical calls and one service call with a response time of 9:55 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of June.

Mayor Watters reported there was a 15.2% water loss for the month of June.

Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that they will have set up an advertisement date for the drainage in Bailey Ridge soon. Mr. Verner stated that the force main interceptor project should be completed within the next few weeks. He stated that they will be opening bids for the High Street repaving Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. This will include repaving and replacing the speed bumps.

David Baker provided updates to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the July Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Baker stated that they reviewed plans for a new business located on Hwy 57. The business is Cypress Home & Garden Center. The landscaping and building plans were both approved. Mr. Baker stated that they approved the check list for Lafayette Park Parking lot and begin advertising for bids. Mr. Baker stated that the owners at Rossville Express are working on getting the landscaping and site work complete. He said there are still some code enforcement issues is pleased they are trying.

Under old business, Mayor Watters brought before the Board second reading on Ordinance 2020-008, an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Rossville to amend certain provisions of Article VII related to political signage. Zach Moore made the motion to approve Ordinance 2020-008 on second reading, a second from Mike Swessell and unanimous vote.

Under new business, Mayor Watters brought before the Board first reading on Ordinance 2020-009, an Ordinance amending Municipal Code of the Town of Rossville, Title 11, Chapter 3 regarding municipal offenses against the peace and quiet. Mayor Watters stated that the change will amend the ordinance to allow construction from 7am to 7pm Monday through Saturday and noon to 6pm on Sundays. Cindi Rutledge made the motion to approve Ordinance 2020-009 on first reading, a second from Suzy Gray and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board that Mike Thomas who lives in the Historic District would like to address the Board regarding the flooding in the Downtown area. Mr. Thomas stated he has lived in the downtown area for 23 years. He stated that the velocity of the water coming down Morrison Creek in the past month is the worst he has seen. He stated that the banks in his back yard are starting to cave in and that trees are starting to fall. He asked if this was caused from the new construction and if the Board has done a study of Morrison Creek. Tim Verner stated that there have been studies on Morrison Creek by the Corp of Engineers. The latest one that he recalled was done in 2000. The Corp completed a feasibility and an impact study. The cost then was between \$500,000 to \$600,000. Mr. Verner stated that another study could be done but that the Town would have to be on a waiting list. Studies are prioritized by severity. Mr. Verner stated that the subdivisions under construction at the time of the study included detention ponds designed to relieve some of the tension from the Morrison Creek. Other residents voiced their concerns over the flooding on their property from the Creek. It was decided that the property owners could construct their own berms to help minimize flooding in the area. Doug Swink commented that the flooding was not caused from construction and new development. Mr. Swink stated that all the development is following drainage policies for retention and detention.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen the development contract with Renaissance Development for Phase two of The Villages of Lafayette Station. Mayor Watters stated attorney Tom Minor has already reviewed it and it is like the previous agreement for Phase One. Suzy Gray made the motion for Mayor Watters to execute the contract for Lafayette Station Phase II, a second from Cindi Rutledge and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that the Design Review Committee has a vacancy and asked for recommendations for a new member. With none being suggested Mayor Watters nominated Corey Long. Bobby Williams made the motion for Corey Long to be the new Design Review Committee member, a second from Cindi Rutledge and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters updated the Board of the audit delay with Godwin and Associates. Mayor Watters stated Mr. Godwin is still working on the 18/19 fiscal year audit and the State gave them an extension until July 31, 2020. The State Comptroller notified the Town that FY 20/21 budget was not accepted because of the failure to submit a certified auditor FY 18/19. The Comptrollers Office advised the Town that our Ordinance will serve as our authority to fund the Towns requirements for the current year. Mayor Watters stated that we have a new auditor that has been hired for the next year and the State is aware of our challenges and the situation is being monitored.

Mayor Watters updated the Board of Aldermen that there will be a sales tax referendum on the August ballot for Rossville raising the sales tax a half cent. She stated that this increase will benefit the Towns revenue by \$50,000 per year.

Mayor Watters informed the Board that the Governor has allowed the County Mayors to extend, require, or mandate mask requirements. Mayor Skip Taylor has strongly encouraged the use of masks for now.

Bobby Williams made the motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., all in favor.

Karen Pennington  
Town Recorder

Motion: Bobby Williams  
August 11, 2020

Second: Doug Kranz  
August 11, 2020

Approved:  
Judy Watters, Mayor