

**TOWN OF ROSSVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR OF BOARD AND ALDERMEN**

380 Morrison Road  
Rossville, TN 38066

November 9, 2021

Visitors: Edgar Babian, Dave Hamric, Joseph Howell, Karen Pennington, Lorie Rice, Tim Verner, David Baker, Jeff Wooden, Betty Mullis and Mary Etta Hallewell.

Board members attending were Judy Watters, Mike Swessel, Sherrie Rinehart, Bobby Williams, Zachary Moore, Sondra Webb, and Doug Kranz.

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

Chief Hamric gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Watters asked for non-agenda items from the Board, Aldermen Sherrie Rinehart added the Christmas event schedule to the agenda. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the October 12, 2021 regular meeting of the Mayor and Board were approved with a motion from Sherrie Rinehart, a second from Zachary Moore and a unanimous vote.

Lori Rice reported on the financials for the month of October. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the financials for the month October, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Chief Hamric reported there were 45 calls, 120 citation charges, 55 warnings, 2 crashes and 5 incident reports for the month of October for the Police Department. Chief Hamric informed the Mayor and Board that they should be receiving the new 2022 Ford Explorer within the next month.

Chief Edgar Babian reported a total of 5 fire calls and 31 medical calls with a response time of 10:05 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of October. Chief Babian informed the Mayor and Board that the Memphis High tailers Club did their annual bike ride through Rossville and donated their proceeds to the Rossville Fire Department in the amount of \$395.

Joseph Howell reported the water loss for the month of October was 15.4%. Mr. Howell stated that Ralpop is now all on automated read meters. Mr. Howell stated that he has been pricing used and new track hoes because the back hoe they currently have is old and needing a lot of repairs. Mr. Howell stated that the pricing between a new and used machine is minimal and he suggested purchasing a new one that has a warranty. Sondra Webb made the motion to approve bidding for a new track hoe not to exceed \$70,000, a second from Zachary Moore and a unanimous vote.

David Baker brought before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen the planning updates for the month of November. Mr. Baker stated that they met to review a sign for the new State Farm location on the Highway. This was approved. The Planning Commission reviewed some changes to the façade to the house located at 375 Main Street in the Historic District. This was also approved. David Baker stated they also reviewed the Taylor subdivision on Second Street and stated that the property owner wanted to subdivide the lot but according to the plat that was submitted the width of the lot did not meet the 100-foot-wide requirements and was not approved.

Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the West Street paving project. Mr. Verner stated the contractor has put a stripe down and has informed him that the signs are on back order. Once received they will fix the potholes on Morrison that have been marked and the job will be completed. Mr. Verner stated he has spoke with Mr. Fowler regarding the reflectors on the speed bumps on High Street and they should be installed this month. Tim Verner stated that he has been working on a TEMA grant to replace the water plant because the plant is currently located in a 500-year flood zone. When we have a flash flood, the plant is surrounded by water at times. Mr. Verner will be bringing more information to the Mayor and Board at a later date.

Under Old Business, Joseph Howell updated the Mayor and Board about the situation with the beavers at Spring Lake Park. He stated that the water crossing the trail has been eliminated by 80% and the railroad is scheduled to come later this week to clean out the culverts and remove some more of the beavers. Joseph Howell updated the Mayor and Board that paving on Hwy 194 and Second street was completed and stated that that they did a great job with the repair.

Under New Business, Mayor Watters stated that the auditors have contacted us regarding the FY 2020/2021 audit. The Town will have to depreciate all donated assets assumed by the Town under the GASB 34 ruling. Mayor Watters stated that this is something that we have not done in the past, and there are other cities who are also not compliant. The Mayor spoke to attorneys, the Comptrollers office and our auditors; any new developer infrastructure or assets donated to the Town must be depreciated. Mayor Watters stated that she has been in contact with the developers and is working hard to retrieve some of the costs to include in this fiscal year audit. Mayor Watters stated this will be an audit finding and the Town will have a qualified opinion on capital assets only.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen that the employee insurance rates are going up 11% for 2022 calendar year at a cost for \$5300. Mayor Watters asked that the Board to approve to assume the employee portion of this increase for the next year. Mayor Watters stated we have a great group of employees and we are lucky to have them. Zachary Moore made the motion to approve for the Town to pay the additional 11% on the employee portion only, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Fire Chief Babian brought before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen a request to promote Scott Jones as assistant Fire Chief. Chief Babian stated that Scott worked for Germantown for over 30 years and is available to be in charge in the event I need to be off. Chief Babian stated this is an unpaid position. Mayor Watters stated that she fully supports Chief Babian's request. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve Scott Jones as assistant Fire Chief, a second from Sondra Webb and unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that the St. Jude Dream House will be built in Rossville for the third year. Mayor Watters stated that the builder is trying to keep all costs as low as possible. She would like to suggest waiving all fees except for the \$200 meter fee. Mayor Watters stated this will save the builder around \$2700. Zachary Moore made the motion to approve the fees waived for the St. Jude Dream house, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen the extension of the contract for the Police Chief Dave Hamric for another year through December 2022 with all terms remaining the same. Sondra Webb made the motion to extend the contract for the Police Chief, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that the Town received half of the American Rescue Plan money in the amount of \$142,000. Mayor Watters stated that we have to keep these funds separate and needs approval from the Board to open a new Money Market account at the Bank of Fayette County to track expenses. Mayor Watters stated these funds were approved for the Water and Sewer fund. Zachary Moore made the motion to allow Mayor Watters to open a new account for the American Rescue Plan, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen a request to compensate Suzy Gray for all the hard work and dedication to the Town for Smokin on the Wolf. Mayor Watters stated that she started the BBQ from nothing and she works six months of the year to make it happen. Mayor Watters asked the Board if they would consider awarding her a check for \$2000. Zachary Moore made the motion to approve the check for \$2000 to Suzy Gray, a second Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen the annual Christmas bonuses for the employees. Mayor Watters stated that in the past we have given \$200 for full time and \$100 for part time. She requested an increase to \$300 for full time and \$150 for part time. Sondra Webb made the motion to approve the employee Christmas bonus, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters updated the Board on the Christmas plans for the Christmas in the Lafayette Park. Mayor Watters stated we have had some issues with the electrical outlets in the park. An anonymous donor has offered to pay \$5000 for lighting improvements. Mayor Watters asked the Board to approve the donation so we can make sure all outlets work and lighting in park is good for the tree lighting and Santa on December 5, 2021. Sondra Webb made the motion to accept the donation of \$5000, a second from Zachary Moore and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Alderman that she will be attending a meeting to discuss the coming of the Blue Oval project. She stated that she spoke with someone from Spring Hill and was advised of the impact had on their city when the auto plant came there. Mayor Watters stated that she would like to get the Board together to discuss some options the Town may need to consider for future growth.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Karen Pennington  
Town Recorder

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_  
December 14, 2021

Second: \_\_\_\_\_  
December 14, 2021

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor