

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

380 Morrison Road
Rossville, TN 38066

May 9, 2023

Visitors: Dave Hamric, Lorie Rice, Edgar Babian, Joseph Howell, Tom Minor, David Baker, Tim Verner, Carolyn Rhea, Betty Ann Mullis, Becky Feathers, David and Susan Ellison, John Dillcox, Courtney Lutz, Ted Wieneck, Lee Shackleford, Betty Salmon, Bennie Sutton, Mae Dandridge, Bobbie Knox, Leslie and Norman McCrone, Beverly and Tony Savage, Gavin Turner, Bob Taylor, Alonzo Mormon Sr, Square Mormon Jr, Allan Mueller, Henry and Mary Perry, Shannon Cotter, Donny Leggitt, Lei and Tammie Martin, TF Lambert, Daniel Crisp, Stephen Anderson, and Roberta Anderson.

Board members attending were Judy Watters, Sherrie Rinehart, Bobby Williams, Sondra Webb, Jeffrey Wooden, and Mike Swessel. Zachary Moore was absent.

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

Chief Hamric led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes from the April 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Mayor and Board were approved with a motion from Mike Swessel, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

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

Mayor Watters opened the public hearing for the Urban Growth Boundary Plan stating that the County has opened the urban growth plan and the Town of Rossville has provided a plan showing for potential expansion over the next 20 years. Mayor Watters stated that when the ad for the public hearing was first published, it mentioned annexation and this was done by mistake and was immediately corrected the following week. There will be no annexation; this is just a proposed Urban Growth Plan of where we would like Rossville to be in the next 20 years. She introduced City Planner David Baker. He started by saying this is not just for Rossville but the county has opened up the boundaries for other cities in Fayette County as well. Mr. Baker showed the audience a power point presentation of the current city limits, the current urban growth limits and the proposed urban growth plan. The plan extends north across the Wolf River on Hwy 194, south of Hwy 57 to the state line and east on Hwy 57 to Slayden Road. He stated there are some property owners that have reached out to us about being annexed into Rossville in the future with large pieces of property. Mr. Baker stated that the city is not annexing any property at this time but setting the stage for future growth management and city services. Mr. Baker asked the audience if they had any questions. Resident Daniel Crisp asked what is the growth they expect east of Hwy 57? Mr. Baker stated it is expected to be all residential. Shannon Cotter asked if the people that are in the proposed Urban Growth limits would have to pay city taxes and does this give the City authority to determine land use. Mr. Baker assured the citizens this would not happen and stated again that the only property owners that will be annexed will have to request it from the city. There are certain procedures that would have to be

followed. One Resident asked if the Town had plans to widen Frazier Road. Mr. Baker stated that the Frazier Road is not currently in the town limits. A resident asked if there were plans to make Hwy 57 a four-lane highway. Mr. Baker stated that Hwy 57 is state Hwy and that TDOT has conducted various studies and will continue to do so to see if a turning lane is needed. A resident stated that it is a historic highway and cannot be four laned. Mr. Baker agreed. Mr. Baker then again went over the annexation process for the public and let them know that the Urban Growth plan did not mean that the Town can annex any of the property. It simply allows a property owner the option to be annexed if they so decide. A resident then asked if there will be more plans to communicate with the public on upcoming proposals. Mayor Watters stated that if you would like to get a group together to discuss and look at the map and discuss in more detail, we would be willing to do that. She stated that this is a great development for the future of Rossville that does not include strip malls and commercial property. Mr. Baker stated that when a resident wants to be annexed, they must petition the Town. Public notices will be sent to the Fayette Falcon and to residents within a 300-foot radius of the proposed property being annexed or rezoned. Mayor Watters stated that we post these notices at the post office, in the newspaper, at Town Hall and on Facebook. Daniel Crisp stated that he would like clarification that if a landowner who lives on the other side of Troxel wants to be annexed but the property between that said property does not will they be annexed along with them. Mayor Watters stated the only property that will be annexed is the one that actually makes a formal request to the Town. She stated the Town will not annex property without consent from the property owner. Mayor Watters closed the public hearing on the Urban Growth Boundary Plan.

Mayor Watters opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2023-002, an ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee amending the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget passed by ordinance 2022-011. With no citizens comments the public hearing was closed.

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

Lorie Rice reported on the financials for the month of April. Mike Swessel made the motion to approve the financials for the month of April, a second from Jeff Werner and a unanimous vote.

Chief Hamric reported that the Police Department responded to 51 calls, 1 arrest, 151 citation charges, 59 warnings, 6 incident reports and 1 crash during the month of April.

Chief Babian presented the Fire Department activity for the month of April. They responded to 3 fire calls and 13 medical calls with an average response time of 8:36 minutes for Rossville.

Joseph Howell reported the water loss for the month of April was 11.5%. Mr. Howell informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen they have replaced 10 meters this month with automated read meters.

Under old business, Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen second reading on Ordinance 2023-002, an ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee amending the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget passed by ordinance 2022-011. Mike Swessel made the motion to accept Ordinance 2023-002 on second reading, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Under new business, Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen first reading on Ordinance 2023-003, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee adopting the annual budget and tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Mayor Watters stated that one of the major pieces of the budget is adopting the tax rate. She said the

Board has looked very closely at all line items in the budget and we are going to have to make a lot of changes in the upcoming year. She stated there are many reasons for these changes such as inflation, drops in development, a drop in personal property taxes and public utility assessments. She stated the property tax revenue is about \$70,000 less than where it was two years ago. She stated the Town will have to pass an increase of 12 cents this year and a home appraised at \$200,000 will pay an incremental \$5 per month. She stated the reason we have to do this is to cover the cost of police and fire salaries while the Board hates to do this we cannot continue to provide the services for the Town at the same tax rate we currently have. Mayor Watters stated there has not been a tax increase in at least 20 years for Rossville. There will be a public hearing on the Budget on June 13th to allow residents to ask questions. Jeff Wooden made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-003, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee adopting the annual budget and tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, a second from Bobby Williams and unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters updated the public that there will be food trucks in Lafayette Park on Sunday, May 21st from 3-5 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made; all in favor.

Karen Pennington, Town Recorder

Motion: _____
June 13, 2023

Second: _____
May 9, 2023

Approved: _____
Mayor