

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

November 15, 2023

Visitors: Edgar Babian, Dave Hamric, Karen Pennington, David Baker, Warner Speakman, Betty Mullis, and Carolyn Rhea.

The present members were Judy Watters, Sondra Webb, Mike Swessel, Sherrie Rinehart, Zachary Moore, Jeff Wooden and Bobby Williams.

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

Bobby Williams gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters asked for citizen comments regarding agenda items only. None were suggested. Mayor Watters amended the agenda by adding an item under new business regarding replacing a member on the BZA, adding Ordinance 2023-012 to rezone 9.02 acres from FAR to B-2, and removing the Urban Growth plan resolution from old business. Sherrie Rinehart made the motion to approve the agenda with amendments, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the October 10, 2023, regular Board meeting was approved with a motion from Zachary Moore, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters introduced School Board member Warner Speakman to address the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Speakman stated that he has served on the Fayette County School Board for two years. Although they have made some progress, he advised there are many remaining challenges. He stated that funds should be more focused on student education and less on administrative costs. He asked for Town's support in the 2024 election. He stated there is a need for a candidate in District 1 who will commit to improve the state ranking of Fayette County. He stated the only place to go from here is up. The Mayor and Board members thanked him for taking time to speak to them and the regular meeting resumed.

Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the financials for October 2023, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.

Chief Hamric reported there were 37 calls, 134 citation charges, 37 warnings, 1 crash, and 3 incident reports for the month of October for the Police Department. Chief Hamric informed the Mayor and Board the two 2024 Tahoes should be delivered soon and the total cost for both vehicles is \$99,230 without police equipment.

Edgar Babian reported a total of 7 fire calls, 22 medical calls and 2 service calls with a response time of 9:37 minutes for Rossville for the month of October.

Mayor Watters reported the water loss for the month of October at 11.1%. She informed the Board that the internet connection from the water tank to the water plant has been down for the past couple weeks and the guys have been manually running the pumps and spending 24/7 at the water plant. Joseph was absent due to a cut water line that was caused by the paving company today.

David Baker updated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on the results of the October Planning and Zoning meeting. Three applications were reviewed:

- The first was the consideration of a rezoning request of 9.02 acres from FAR to B-2 on the northside of Wolfport Way for a new construction company. This was approved.
- The second was signage for Rossville BP, formally known as Charlies. This was approved subject to some conditions and final reviews.
- The third was review of site plan and elevation signage for Sky Box Liquor located at 5285 Hwy 57. This was approved.

Under old business, Mayor Watters addressed the retracted agenda item Resolution 2023-011, a Resolution of Rossville, Tennessee to adopt the growth plan for the Fayette County as approved by the growth plan coordinating committee on November 1, 2023. She stated that this was being pulled from the agenda because of non-support from a county subcommittee. She asked the Board to table this until they were able to obtain more information. Motion to table by Swessel, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Alderwomen Sherrie Rinehart gave the Mayor and Board an update on the TN Downtown Improvement Grant. She stated that the application was submitted for \$300,000 and 50% of the amount of the grant was intended to go to the Downtown façade. The committee worked with property owners in the Downtown district and identified \$246,000 in improvements. Unfortunately, the grant was denied. The grant administrators did not feel that the walking trail tied into the Downtown area. She stated that they have been talking to the Grant Administrator and State Representative Ron Gant, but we have not been successful.

Under new business, Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen Ordinance 2013-012, an Ordinance to rezone 9.02 acres, Parcel 165 024.03, a certain property within the Town limits of Rossville, TN. Mayor Watters stated that this was reviewed and approved at the Planning and Zoning meeting earlier in the month. Ordinance 2013-012 was approved with a motion from Mike Swessel, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen the new health insurance rates for the employees for the 2024 calendar year. She stated that for the past two years the town has absorbed an increase for the employees based on the 2021 rate. Employees only paid 13%; however, they paid 100% of the cost of any family plan purchases. She stated this year the increase is 8% for the employee premiums. Since the Town paid the increase during the past 2 years, the employee increase will be minimum. This is an age-based program. Bobby Williams made the motion for the employees to pay 15% of the total premium and 100% of family coverage, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen the annual Christmas bonuses for the employees. She stated that our staff has been dedicated to the Town and have stuck with us through a difficult year. Her recommendation was to increase the bonus for full time to \$400 and part time to \$200. Sondra Webb made the motion to approve the Christmas bonuses for employees, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen the Holiday Schedule for the calendar year 2024. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the Holiday Schedule for the 2024 year, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that Board of Zoning and Appeals member Rob Tice will no longer be able to serve as he is moving from Rossville. He was a very vital member of the Board and will be missed. She stated that she had received a resume for Rob's committee membership from Jessica Ferrante and presented the Board with her resume. The Mayor advised the Board that Jessica will be able to fill the vacancy and bring value to this committee. Zachary Moore made the motion for Jessica Ferrante to be the newest member of the BZA, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board that there will be a BZA meeting on 11/27/23. She also stated that the audit results for the 22/23 fiscal year will be discussed prior to the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board in December.

Motion to adjourn 7:02 p.m., all in favor.

Karen Pennington
Town Recorder

Motion: _____
December 12, 2023

Second: _____
December 12, 2023

Approved: _____
Mayor