

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

380 Morrison Road  
Rossville, TN 38066

September 10, 2024

Visitors: Joseph Howell, Karen Pennington, Tim Verner, Edgar Babian, Stephen Chandler, Betty Mullis, Caroline Rhea, Ann Aukerman, and Patrick Siano.

The board members attending the meeting were Judy Watters, Mike Swessel, Jeff Wooden, Sherrie Rinehart, Bobby Williams and Matt Fulcher. Sondra Webb was absent.

Mayor Watters called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen 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 stated that she would like to remove the swearing in of the Police Chief from the agenda and to change the final food truck Sunday to September 15th. Jeff Wooden made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, a second from Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the August 13, 2024, regular Board meeting was approved with a motion from Sherrie Rinehart, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.

Loretta Bell presented the financials for August, 2024. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the financials for August, 2024, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Chief Chandler reported there were 45 police calls, 145 citation charges, 49 warnings, 2 crashes, 1 arrest and 4 incident reports for the month of August for the Police Department.

Edgar Babian reported a total of 2 fire calls, 13 medical calls and 1 service call with a response time of 9:58 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of August. Chief Babian informed the Mayor and Aldermen that there was a garbage truck that caught fire on Morrison.

Joseph Howell reported a water loss for of August of 11.3%. Additionally, his department completed 19 work orders and 22 utility locates.

Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board and Aldermen on the Cotton Trail drainage easement. The survey is complete and only one of the 4 lots have utilities installed outside of the easement. He recommended acquiring an additional 5-foot easement from the property owner. The pipe at 405 Cotton Trail Drive will be removed and replaced with a new surface inlet. This will capture all the water before it goes into the road. All property owners are in agreement with this proposal. This project must be advertised as estimates are approximately \$55,000 to reestablish the line in the easement. The property will be returned to the condition it was before the work was done. Mayor Watters stated this is an unbudgeted expense but it has to be done. Matt Fulcher made the motion to approve the final plan and allow Tim Verner to start the bidding process to reestablish the drainage easement in Cotton Trail, a second from Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.

Tim Verner informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the bids for the overlay in Huntington Point have been advertised and the opening is September 26<sup>th</sup>. The bids for elevated water tower will be opened on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Tim Verner advised the Board that work on the punch list for the dedication agreement of 14.45 acres the Adair estate has begun. He stated that a delay in the improvements to Woodall Way might delay the dedication. The agreement states the Town will not delay the dedication and that the Adair Estate move forward with the dedication of the 14.45 acres. This will allow the bid process can begin. This project is partially funded by TDEC. The punch list will allow us to continue with the process and acquire the property deed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Verner advised the Board that the inspection for Rossville Reserve Planned Development and Villages of Lafayette Station Phase 2 has been completed and there were no deficiencies. He stated that both developer is requesting a reduction in the letters of credit to \$20,000. Jeff Wooden made the motion to approve the reduction of letters of credit for Rossville Reserve Planned Development and Villages of Lafayette Station Phase 2, a second from Sherrie Rinehart and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that she and Chief Chandler discussed purchasing two new Police vehicles and explored options to reduce wait time and vehicles costs. She recommended that the Town advertise for two 2024 Dodge Durangos in the Fayette Falcon the week of 9/9/24. She stated that Chief Chandler and she met with Kent Ritchey of Landers Ford. He located two vehicles for a total price of \$77,56. Chief Chandler informed the Aldermen that historically the Town contracted with Comserv to retrofit the vehicles at a cost of \$13,000 each. In discussions with the Sheriff's Department, an option surfaced that would allow us to have the retrofit performed by the County at a cost of \$8,000 per vehicle. Mayor Watters reminded the Board that the FY25 budget included plans for one retrofitted Tahoe and an expectation to purchase second vehicle with reserve funds. The combined savings of purchasing a less expensive vehicle (Tahoe vs. Durango) and using the Sheriff's Department vs. Comserv for the retrofit, two Durangos could be purchased with an unbudgeted expense not to exceed \$30,000. Chief Chandler also stated that he would like to auction the Crown Vic and two 2014 Tahoes that are not in service. Once sold, the residual will be used against the cost of the new vehicles. Matt Fulcher made the motion to auction the two 2014 Tahoes, the Crown Vic and to purchase 2 new Dodge Durangos once the advertised bids are received and to use not more than \$30,000 in reserve funds. A second to the motion was made by Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters also asked approval from the Board to bid a new truck for the Fire Department. As soon as we have the specs for the new/replacement vehicle, an advertisement will run in the Fayette Falcon. Jeff Wooden made the motion to advertise the bid for a new truck for the Fire Department, a second from Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen the first reading of Ordinance 2024-012, an Ordinance to change the compensation for the Town of Rossville's Mayor. The ordinance will increase the salary of the Mayor from \$500 to \$2,500 month beginning December, 2024. Mayor Watters stated that in 2018 the compensation was lowered to \$500 a month as the Town was anticipate hiring a Town Administrator to perform many of the duties of the Mayor. This change was not made due to budgetary constraints. Mayor Watters stated we contracted James Lewellen in 2024 to assist with special projects and although we made great progress, he accepted a position with MTAS and is no longer available to the Town. Mayor Watters stated that the budget included \$12,000 for consultant fees that can be used to offset this increase. Aldermen Matt Fulcher stated that he agreed that Mayor's salary should be

increased but the need for police should be the priority at this time with the amount of growth that the Town is experiencing. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve Ordinance 2024-012 on first reading, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.

Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that last food truck Sunday will be September 18<sup>th</sup> and the Smokin' on the Wolf BBQ contest will be September 26-28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Watters thanked Kim Williams and Diana Younts for taking such good care of the flowers downtown and also to a Chuck Wallace, a resident of Piperton, who sprayed the Crepe Myrtles to eliminate a fungus.

Aldermen Mike Swessel informed the Mayor and Aldermen that Thunder over Fayette will be held at the Fayette County Airport on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:07 p.m. with all members in favor of the motion.

Karen Pennington  
Town Recorder

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