

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

November 12, 2024

Visitors: Joseph Howell, Karen Pennington, Tim Verner, Edgar Babian, David Baker, Stephen Chandler, and Betty Mullis.

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

Prior to the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board meeting Wickberg Accounting reviewed the results of the FY24 audit which received an unqualified opinion.

Mayor Watters called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at 6:30 p.m. Bobby Williams gave the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters asked for citizen comments regarding agenda items only. None were suggested. Mayor Watters amended the agenda by adding Resolution 2024-013, a Resolution awarding the bid for construction of three raw water wells TDEC ARP Project No. 2022-8896 contingent upon TDEC/SWIG approval. Sherrie Rinehart made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.

Minutes from the October 8, 2024, regular Board meeting were approved with a motion from Jeff Wooden, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.

Department and Staff Reports:

- Loretta Bell presented the financials for October, 2024. Bobby Williams made the motion to approve the financials for October, 2024, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.
- Chief Chandler reported there were 37 police calls, 134 citation charges, 80 warnings, 0 crashes, 3 arrests and 10 incident reports for the month of October for the Police Department. Chief Chandler informed the Mayor and Board that the decals for the new Durango's have been ordered and each car will be numbered for identification purposes. Additionally, "In God We Trust" will be imprinted on the rear of the cars.
- Edgar Babian reported there were 2 fire calls, 7 medical calls and 3 service calls with a response time of 6:22 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of October.
- Joseph Howell updated the Board on water/waste water activities for October. Details included a water loss of 11.2%, 20 work orders were completed and set 2 new meters were installed during October.
- Tim Verner reported that the Huntington Pointe paving project is complete.
- David Baker reported on the results of the Planning Commission and Design Review Committee regarding Fire Protective Services located at 490 Morrison Road. The property owners will make some façade improvements and enclose the awing area to add new office space. (Details of the committee results can be found in the minutes of these committee meetings.)

Old Business:

- Tim Verner reviewed the bid results for the 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank on October 22nd. The Town received two bids. The low bid of \$2,284,133 was submitted by Caldwell Tanks, Inc. Mr. Verner recommended that the Town award this project to Caldwell Tanks Inc. based on their qualifications. Jeff Wooden made the motion to accept the bid of \$2,284,133. from Caldwell Tanks Inc. for the elevated water storage tanks, a second from Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.
- Tim Verner also reviewed the singular bid received for the water supply wells on October 24th in the amount of \$2,910,357 from National Water Services. Mr. Verner recommended the Town award the project to National Water Services for the following reasons:
 - There is a current shortage of well drillers across the area.
 - Only one bid was submitted. The Town craft a Resolution that includes language specifying “the bid be approved contingent upon TDEC/SWIG Approval”.
 - Mayor Watters requested that the Board consider approval of Resolution 2024-013 - A Resolution awarding a bid for the construction of three (3) Raw Water Wells TDEC ARP Project No. 2022-8896 Contingent upon TDEC/ SWIG approval. Mike Swessel made the motion to approve Resolution 2024-013, a second from Matt Fulcher and a unanimous vote.
- Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that TEMA has disbursed the funds for the storm damage that we applied for in June 2023, this was for damage at the lagoon. The amount received was \$46,954.26.

New Business:

- Wickberg Accounting - Mayor Watters asked for Board approval to accept the contract with Wickberg Accounting for the FY24/25 audit in the amount of \$19,500. Sherrie Rinehart made the motion to approve the contract, a second from Matt Fulcher and a unanimous vote.
- Employee Insurance Rates - Mayor Watters provided the Board with an overview of the 2025 health insurance rates. Rates with United Health Care increased 11.5% on a YOY basis as compared to a 4% increase in rates with Blue Cross Blue Shield. These rates are age-based. Town employees cover 15% of the monthly rate and the Town provides coverage for the remaining 85%. Selecting Blue Cross Blue Shield as the insurance provider for 2025 reduces both employee and Town expenses. Bobby Williams made the motion to accept Blue Cross Blue Shield for the employee health coverage for the 2025 year, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.
- Special Census - Mayor Watters requested approval to perform a special census during 2025. She stated that the last special census completed in 2018 by the Town yielded a population of 1,058. The 2020 Federal Census identified 1,041. She stated that a true population count will increase revenue received. Southwest Development District will verify work completed by the staff. Matt Fulcher made the motion to approve a special Census to be conducted by the Town, a second from Bobby Williams and unanimous vote.
- Employee Bonuses: Mayor Watters asked the Board to approve Christmas bonuses in the amount of \$400 for full-time and \$200 for part-time. She stated that our staff has been dedicated to the Town and we need to show our appreciation. Matt Fulcher stated that he agreed and requested that we increase the bonuses for all employees by \$25.00. Matt Fulcher

made the motion to approve the employee Christmas bonus in the amount of \$425 for full-time and \$225 for part-time, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.

- Holiday Schedule: Mayor Watters asked the Board to approve the Holiday Schedule for the 2025 Calendar year. The Town has 9 paid holidays. Sherrie Rinehart made the motion to approve the Holiday Schedule for the 2025 year, a second from Bobby Williams and unanimous vote.
- Water Department Truck: Mayor Watters requested permission to advertise purchasing a used F-150 truck for the Water Department which is a budgeted expense. Sherrie Rinehart made the motion to allow to Mayor Watters to bid out for a used truck for the Water Department, a second from Bobby Williams and unanimous vote.
- Election Update: Mayor Watters stated that Sherrie Rinehart, Sondra Webb and Mike Swessel all won their election and will continuing as Aldermen the next four years. She stated that she also won her election unopposed and is happy to be able to serve as Mayor to Rossville for the next four years. She stated that all Board members will be sworn in at the December meeting.
- New Prosecutor: Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that our Prosecutor Kevin Patterson will be retiring after December court and Nicholas Pierotti will be taking his place.

Aldermen Sherrie Rinehart announced that the Board members will be having a lunch for all town employees on December 11th.

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 p.m. with all members in favor of the motion.

Karen Pennington
Town Recorder

Approved: _____
Mayor