

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

August 12, 2025

Visitors: Karen Pennington, Loretta Bell, Edgar Babian, Steve Chandler, Joseph Howell, Tim Verner, Jimmy Thomas, Ann Aukerman, Carolyn Rhea, Betty Mullis, Warren Gill, Tom Minor and Gary York.

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

Mayor Watters called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order 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. Jeff Wooden made the motion to approve agenda, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

The minutes from the July, 2025, Regular Board meeting were approved with a motion from Matt Fulcher, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.

Department and Staff Reports:

- Loretta Bell presented the financials for July, 2025. Sondra Webb made the motion to approve the financials for July 2025, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.
- Chief Chandler reported there were 17 police calls, 269 citation charges, 75 warnings, 2 crashes, 1 arrest and 5 incident reports during the month of July.
- Chief Babian reported there were 2 fire calls, 5 service calls and 11 medical calls with a response time of 11:02 minutes for the Rossville Fire Department for the month of July.
- Joseph Howell reported the water loss rate for July was 10.6%. The Water Department completed 20 work orders and 41 locates during the month of July.
- Tim Verner advised the Board of Aldermen bids for the Cotton Trail drainage project have been received. The bids were higher than expected but there are options to reduce the project cost. Mr. Verner suggested a change order to have the liner placed under the existing pipe and negotiate for altered pipe. He stated the home owner is not opposed to leaving the existing pipe in place as long as the city maintains ownership. Mr. Verner stated that his recommendation is to award the project as bid and prepare a change order to set it up as a drainage point. Secondly, we will prepare a bid for the place liner. He said we would base on original bid ad get contract in place and create a create change order. Sondra Webb made the motion to award Ensco the bid for the Cotton Trail drainage and allow Mayor to sign the change order not to exceed \$27,000, a second from Bobby Williams and a unanimous vote.

Old Business: There was no old business to address.

New Business:

- Mayor Watters brought before the Board of Aldermen first reading on Ordinance 2025-008, an Ordinance to rezone 1.44 acres, Parcel NO. 165.023.04, certain property as shown on Fayette County tax map NO. 165, within the Town limits of Rossville, TN. Mike Swessel made the motion to approve Ordinance 2025-008 on first reading, a second from Sondra webb and a unanimous vote.
- Tim Verner informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the bids for the three wells were high. He spoke with the Contractor about how we are going to get the same end goal for 3 - 600 gallon raw wells with a reduction price of \$710,242. He stated this can be done by moving the final electrical hookup from the wells to the water plant hookup. This is only deferring the timeframe of when the Town spends the money.

The state requires any new raw water well to be tested and we know we have a good water source here in Rossville so we can save \$200,000 for not having a test well. Matt Fulcher made the motion to allow Mayor Watters to execute the change order after it has been approved by the State, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote.

- Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that we have two roads that need to be paved Knox Road and Neville Road. She stated we have received estimates for both. The competing estimates are \$340,000 for Knox Road and \$235,000 for Neville. She stated since there is a lot of construction traffic on Knox, perhaps it makes more sense to pave Neville. The FY26 budget includes \$250,000 for street repairs and Neville has not been paved in many years. Bobby Williams made the motion to proceed to get bids to pave Neville road, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote. We will consider paving Knox Road at a future time.
- Mayor Watters stated that there are two walking trails that need attention. One is the trail around Spring Lake and the other is in Saunders Creek. Mayor Watters stated that we have funds in our Park and Recreation fund that we have collected over the years from the BBQ cooking contest to help fund this expense. The trail in Saunders Creek is eroding and there is approximately 200 feet of the trail that is being encroached by the Morrison Creek. Mr. Verner stated that there is room to re-route it from the creek using the common space in that subdivision. This will require a right of way easement from the HOA and a drop pipe in the creek to help control water flow. The trail around the lake has many issues such as roots, flooding, and cracks. Mayor Watters stated that we have barricades up now to prevent anyone from being hurt. The Board requested Tim Verner to bid both trails and that will allow the Board to determine the outcome.
- Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that MTAS has resources available for their Utility Board Training.
- Mayor Watters advised the Board that Alderwoman Sherrie Rinehart will be moving to Florida and has tendered her resignation. She stated that Ms. Rinehart has been a vital asset to the Town and assisted in securing grants, introducing Food Truck Sundays and hosting the VIP Tent at the barbeque. She will be missed greatly. Matt Fulcher made the motion to accept Sherrie Rinehart's resignation, a second from Mike Swessel and a unanimous vote.
- Jeff Wooden made the motion to nominate Gary York to assume the open Alderman position, a second from Sondra Webb and a unanimous vote. Attorney Tom Minor did the swearing in of new Alderman Gary York.
- Mayor Watters scheduled a work session with the Board for 8/19/25 at 6:00 pm to review the Sign Ordinance and discuss revisions.
- Mayor Watters stated that the Kellogg's building was sold to Silver Hills Bakery, a Canadian owned company. Tentative plans are for operations to begin during the 4th quarter of 2025. The Town is very excited to welcome them to Rossville.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:30 p.m. with all members in favor of the motion.

Karen Pennington, Town Recorder

Approved:

Judy B. Watters, Mayor