

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

November 11, 2025

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

Board Members attending: Judy Watters, Jeff Wooden, Mike Swessel, Sondra Harris, Gary York, and Bobby Williams. Matt Fulcher 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters asked for citizen comments regarding agenda items only; none were offered. Sondra Harris made a motion to approve the agenda, with a second from Gary York, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watters opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-012, an ordinance amending Title 12, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 of the Town of Rossville Municipal Code. With no questions or concerns from the audience, the public hearing was closed.

The minutes from the October 2025 Regular Board Meeting were approved with a motion from Gary York, a second from Jeff Wooden, and a unanimous vote.

Department and Staff Reports

- Loretta Bell presented the financials for October 2025. A motion to approve the October 2025 financials was made by Sondra Harris, seconded by Mike Swessel, and approved unanimously.
- Chief Chandler reported 16 police calls, 93 citation charges, 46 warnings, 1 crash, 1 arrest, and 10 incident reports for the month of October.
- Chief Babian reported 2 fire calls, 0 service calls, and 11 medical calls with an average response time of 10 minutes 32 seconds for October.
- Joseph Howell reported the water loss rate for October was 10.8%. The Water Department completed 11 work orders and 23 locates during the month.
- Tim Verner provided Engineering updates:
 1. The drainage relocation on Cotton Trail Drive has been completed, and homeowners were satisfied with the improvements.
 2. The repaving on Neville Road has been completed, and Fowler Paving also repaired several areas on Railroad Street.
 3. Work has started on the foundation for the elevated tank and should be completed by Thanksgiving; steel erection should begin by Christmas.
 4. The third water well and installation project remains on track for completion by early spring.

Old Business

- Mayor Watters presented the second reading of Ordinance 2025-012, amending Title 12, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 of the Municipal Code. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-012 on second reading was made by Jeff Wooden, seconded by Mike Swessel, and approved unanimously.

New Business

- Mayor Watters presented the first reading of Ordinance 2025-013, amending the Rossville Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2 to Title 13, establishing property maintenance regulations to reduce hazards related to fire, accidents, inadequate ventilation, sanitation, unsafe dwellings, and other conditions detrimental to public health, safety, morals, or welfare, and providing penalties for enforcement. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-013 on first reading was made by Mike Swessel, seconded by Gary York, and approved unanimously.
- Mayor Watters presented the first reading of Ordinance 2025-014, revising and adopting various fee schedules, including revised residential, commercial, office, and industrial builder fees. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-014 on first reading was made by Jeff Wooden, seconded by Sondra Harris, and approved unanimously.
- Mayor Watters presented a request from Chief Chandler to purchase body cameras and license plate reader cameras, noting this would be an unbudgeted expense. Chief Chandler reported that the police cruisers currently lack cameras and existing body cameras are outdated. The proposal from Axon includes nine body cameras, two fixed Outpost cameras with license plate-reading and live-stream capability, software and cloud management services, and training. The annual cost for the next five years is \$9,825.04 - a total project expense of \$49,125.20. Mayor Watters advised that \$5,000 will be an unbudgeted expense during this fiscal year, and will be included in future police department budgets. Sondra Harris made a motion to approve the unbudgeted purchase of body cameras and Outpost cameras pending legal review of the contract by Tom Minor, with a second from Jeff Wooden and unanimous approval.
- Mayor Watters presented the new employee health insurance rates for the 2026 calendar year. The quote from Blue Cross Blue Shield reflects a 19.8% increase. The Town currently pays 85% of the employee-only premium, while employees pay the full cost for dependents/spouses. Mayor Watters recommended remaining with Blue Cross Blue Shield and absorbing the increase for 2026. Bobby Williams made a motion to approve the 2026 Blue Cross Blue Shield rates, seconded by Sondra Harris, and approved unanimously.
- The 2026 holiday schedule was presented, and all Board members approved.
- Mayor Watters presented a recommendation for employee Christmas bonuses at the following levels:
 - \$750 for department heads,
 - \$425 for full-time employees, and
 - \$225 for part-time employees.Bobby Williams made a motion to approve the Christmas bonuses, with a second from Jeff Wooden, and unanimous approval.
- Alderman Jeff Wooden suggested honoring veterans in November 2026 by allowing individuals to sponsor flags to be displayed in the downtown area. All Board members agreed, and Jeff agreed to handle the arrangements.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 6:54 p.m., and all members voted in favor.

Karen Pennington, Town Recorder

Approved:

Judy B. Watters, Mayor