

**TOWN OF ROSSVILLE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**

**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
380 Morrison Road  
Rossville, TN 38066**

**February 10, 2026**

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

Board Members Present: Judy Watters, Jeff Wooden, Mike Swessel, Sondra Harris, Matt Fulcher, and Bobby Williams and Gary York.

Mayor Watters called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 6:30 p.m. Loretta Bell delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters invited citizen comments limited to agenda items; none were offered. Bobby Williams made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Sondra Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the January 2025 Regular Board Meeting were approved with a motion by Jeff Wooden, a second by Matt Fulcher, and a unanimous vote.

**Department and Staff Reports**

- **Finance:** Loretta Bell presented the financial statements for January 2026. A motion to approve the January 2026 financials was made by Mike Swessel, seconded by Sondra Harris, and approved unanimously.
- **Police Department:** Chief Chandler reported 21 police calls, 108 citation charges, 67 warnings, 3 arrests, and 6 incident reports for the month of January.
- **Fire Department:** Chief Babian reported 6 fire calls, 1 service calls, and 10 medical calls, with an average response time of 9 minutes and 8 seconds for January. Chief Babian informed the Mayor and Board that he applied for a grant to purchase sections of fire hose; he was approved for \$7,300 and it should be awarded sometime in March.
- **Water Department:** Mayor Watters reported a water loss rate of 11.5% for January. The Water Department completed 17 work orders and 12 locate requests during the month.
- **Engineering:** Tim Verner updated the Mayor and Board that the West Street drainage culvert has been completed and the final asphalt will be poured in the next couple weeks. He stated that the plate steel will be delivered for the elevated tank in the next couple weeks and all the well casings and screens have been installed. He stated that we are just waiting on testing.

**Old Business**

- Mayor Watters informed the Board that we are coming to a point when we will have to look at how much we have spent so far on the Water Tower/Tank project and look at options to see if we will have to borrow funds for the new Water Plant. Mr. Verner stated that the two projects that are under contract are the elevated storage tank and the water wells. The town received \$3 million from the State to fund towards this project plus a matching grant from TDEC. The cost for the new water plant is estimated at \$4,950,000. Mayor Watters asked the Board if they would like to have a work session to review different funding options. All members agreed to meet for a work session on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Watters stated there is no update on the utility and asset study.

## **New Business**

- Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that we had previously purchased expellers for the lift station on Morrison to shred the rags that get clogged and lead to costly repairs. Mayor Watters stated that we are finding this to become a common problem with many other of the waste water lift stations. Public Utility Director Joseph Howell and Engineer Tim Verner suggest that we purchase one for each lift station to avoid major repairs, the cost of the expellers is estimated around \$3,500 each. Sondra Harris made the motion to approve the expense of \$21,000 for 6 expellers, a second from Jeff Wooden and a unanimous vote.
- Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that she had met with FEMA and the County to discuss recovering some of the funds that were spent during the recent ice/snow storm. She stated that Rossville is claiming \$35,000 which includes overtime, equipment and damage that has been caused to the streets. She is hoping to hear some news within the next month on how much we will receive.
- Mayor Watters informed the Board that we will start working on Budget in March.
- With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Karen Pennington, Town Recorder

Approved:

Judy B. Watters, Mayor