

**TOWN OF ROSSVILLE**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
**380 Morrison Road**  
**Rossville, Tennessee 38066**  
**June 9, 2026**

**Visitors Present:** Karen Pennington, Steve Chandler, Joseph Howell, Joann Watts, Jason Stuart, Keith Saunders, Betty Mullis, Ann Aukerman, Jeanine Watts, and Carolyn Rhea.

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

Mayor Watters called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 6:00 p.m. Bobby Williams delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Watters invited citizen comments limited to agenda items. No comments were offered.

**Agenda Approval:** Bobby Williams made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mike Swessel. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Public Hearings**

- The public hearing for Ordinance 2026-003, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee, amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget passed by Ordinance 2025-007 was presented for public comment. With no citizen comments, the public hearing was closed.
- The public hearing for Ordinance 2026-004, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee, adopting the annual budget and tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027 was presented for public comment. With no citizen comments, the public hearing was closed.
- The public hearing for Ordinance 2026-005, an Ordinance repealing the current rates for water and wastewater using the CPI index for the Town of Rossville and adopting new rates for infrastructure improvements was presented for public comment. With no citizen comments, the public hearing was closed.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the May 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were approved upon a motion by Gary York, seconded by Mike Swessel. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Department and Staff Reports**

- **Finance:** Karen Pennington presented the financial statements for May 2026. Bobby Williams made a motion to approve the financial statements, seconded by Mike Swessel. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Police Department:** Chief Chandler reported 22 police calls, 120 citation charges, 40 warnings, 2 arrests, 1 crash, and 4 incident reports for the month of May. He stated that the body cameras are in use and that the Watson system is operational; however, the department is still waiting on its ORI number so electronic tickets can begin being issued.
- **Fire Department:**
  - Chief Stuart reported 13 fire calls for the month of May, with an average response time of 10 minutes and 7 seconds. Chief Stuart introduced Assistant Fire Chief Keith Saunders, who retired from Germantown Fire Department, and will be an asset to the Rossville Fire Department.

- Rick Hopper was introduced and recognized for the volunteer work he has done for the Fire Department including cleaning and maintaining the facility. Chief Stuart presented Mr. Hopper with a plaque and a check for \$1,000 in appreciation of his service.
- **Public Utilities:** Joseph Howell reported a water loss rate of 13.5% for May. The department completed 16 work orders, 29 locates, and 1 new meter for the month of May.
- **Engineering**
  - Tim Verner informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the new water tank has been erected and that the painter will begin sandblasting it over the next 2 months. One of the wells is currently being installed and installation of the other two wells will begin within the next few weeks. Once this is completed, the State will begin testing and inspections.
  - The bid for the Water Plant facility will be published the first week of July and bids will be opened mid-month.

## **Old Business**

The second reading of Ordinance 2026-003, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee, amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget passed by Ordinance 2025-007 was presented to the Board for consideration. Jeff Wooden made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Gary York. The motion passed unanimously.

The second reading of Ordinance 2026-004, an Ordinance of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee, adopting the annual budget and tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027 was presented to the Board for consideration. Bobby Williams made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Mike Swessel. The motion passed unanimously.

The second reading of Ordinance 2026-005, an Ordinance repealing the current rates for water and wastewater using the CPI index for the Town of Rossville and adopting new rates for infrastructure improvements was presented to the Board for consideration. Matt Fulcher made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Gary York. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Watters presented to the Board of Aldermen the results of the auction of five police vehicles. The total amount received was \$6,543.

## **New Business**

Resolution 2026-006, a Resolution of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee, to declare certain property owned by the Town to be surplus to the Town's needs and directing disposal of the same was presented to the Board for consideration. Chief Stuart stated that the property was a donated fire engine. The agreement provisioned a return of the equipment to the donor in the event the Town no longer needed it. Jeff Wooden made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Gary York. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-008, a Resolution of the Town of Rossville, Tennessee, to declare certain property owned by the Town to be surplus to the Town's needs and directing disposal of the same was presented to the Board for consideration. Chief Stuart stated that Fayette County Technical Rescue donated an old ambulance several years ago that the Town no longer needs. The Chief would like to donate it to Fayette County EMA. Bobby Williams made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-008, seconded by Jeff Wooden. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Fire Department Business:**

- Chief Stuart informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that, in July 2024, the Town changed from automatic aid to mutual aid. Under the mutual aid agreement, the County does not automatically respond unless assistance is requested. He stated that returning to automatic aid would allow Rossville and the County to support each other more effectively, train together, and operate more cohesively. Jeff Wooden made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the County for automatic aid, seconded by Gary York. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chief Stuart stated that he has been looking for software that will allow the Fire Department to coordinate with the County. The software is cloud-based and includes phones and tablets for volunteers and personnel. The initial cost is \$10,100, with an annual cost of \$8,500. This will be added to the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.
- Assistant Chief Saunders informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that he will be applying for the SAFER grant for the Fire Department, which will pay a portion of salaries; the AFG grant, which will upgrade the radio system; and the FP&S grant, which will help cover code books and software to keep the Fire Department in compliance.
- Mayor Watters informed the Board of Aldermen that the volunteers train four times per month and cook once per month. She requested that the Town pay \$100 toward the cost of these meals. Gary York made a motion to approve \$100 for Fire Department meals, seconded by Jeff Wooden. The motion passed unanimously.

**Waste Water Emergency Repair Request:** The Board of Aldermen was advised that the aerators at the lagoon are no longer functioning which was likely caused by storm damage. Since this created an emergency situation, EXCEL Electric is working to correct the issue. The motors were previously repaired by replacing fuses and switches; however, the repair effort is significant requiring them to be completely replaced. This is an emergency purchase. Jeff Wooden made a motion to allow EXCEL to repair or replace the motors on the aerators at the lagoon, seconded by Gary York. The motion passed unanimously.

**Potential County Tax Issues:** Mayor Watters advised the Board of Aldermen that the County Commission will likely request that the County adopt a local option sales tax for consideration by voters in the County during the November election. If passed, the revenues Rossville receives will be reduced by 50%, approximately \$60,000. This matter was tabled until all mayors can meet with County Mayor Skip Taylor.

**Call for Election:** Mayor Watters stated that three Aldermen positions will be on the ballot in November. Those positions are currently held by Matt Fulcher, Jeff Wooden, and Bobby Williams.

**Planning Commission Meeting:** There will be a Planning Commission meeting on June 15, 2026, to review a request from Rivers Edge related to lot size reduction.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 p.m. All members voted in favor.

Karen Pennington, Town Recorder

Approved:

Judy B. Watters, Mayor