

**TOWN OF ROSSVILLE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**380 Morrison Road
Rossville, Tennessee 38066
August 11, 2026**

Visitors Present: Loretta Bell, Karen Pennington, Steve Chandler, Joseph Howell, Jason Stuart, Betty Mullis, Ann Aukerman, Delphine Rose, Jeanine Watts, Suzy Gray, and Carolyn Rhea.

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

Mayor Judy Watters called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to order at 6:00 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. Alderman Jeff Wooden moved to approve the agenda. Alderman Sondra Harris seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

- A public hearing was held on a proposed amendment to the River Edge planned development concerning lot-size reductions. The public hearing closed with no comments from the audience.

Minutes

Alderman Sondra Harris moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026, regular meeting. Alderman Mike Swessel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Department and Staff Reports

- **Finance:** Loretta Bell presented the financial statements for July 2026. Alderman Jeff Wooden moved to approve the financial statements. Alderman Mike Swessel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Police Department:** Chief Steve Chandler reported 15 police calls, 178 citation charges, 140 warnings, five arrests, one crash, and four incident reports for July.
- **Fire Department:** Chief Jason Stuart reported 34 calls for July, including 26 in Rossville and eight in the county, an increase of 15 calls from the prior month. Chief Stuart reported that the department currently has 12 volunteers and five part-time personnel. He also reported that Assistant Fire Chief Keith Saunders was in Texas assisting Task Force One with flood victim recovery efforts.
- **Public Utilities:** Joseph Howell reported a July water-loss rate of 10.4%. The department installed one new meter during the month and repaired a water leak at City Hall. Mr. Howell also reported that crews had been clearing brush from the booster station at the railroad in preparation for the new water line.
- **Engineering:**
 - Tim Verner reported that exterior painting of the elevated tank was nearing completion and was expected to be finished within approximately 45 days.
 - The State completed its final inspection of the wells. The contractor was expected to complete installation of the wellhead and pump within the next few weeks.
 - David Baker reported that the State had adopted new laws and regulations regarding site plans effective in January. He stated that the requirements are based on submittal time limits.
- **Planning/BZA Commission:** The Board of Zoning Appeals reviewed and approved an amendment to the Browning Construction site plan to add storage tanks.

Old Business

- Mayor Watters requested a motion to approve the amendment to the River Edge planned development lot sizes. The amendment reduces the minimum square footage of homes on certain lots from 3,000 square feet to 2,500 square feet. Alderman Mike Swessel moved to approve the amendment. Alderman Sondra Harris seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Mayor Watters presented Ordinance 2026-009 for first reading, amending Ordinance 2025-003, Schedule 3, Section A, Water System Fees. Alderman Jeff Wooden moved to approve Ordinance 2026-009 on first reading. Alderman Sondra Harris seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Tim Verner reported that bids received for the Water Plant ranged from \$6.68 million to \$8.2 million, which was higher than anticipated. Following discussions with several bidders, he reported that certain elements of the plans, equipment specifications, and building construction could be modified to potentially reduce project costs. Alderman Sondra Harris moved to reject the current bids and revise the plans and specifications. Alderman Jeff Wooden seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Watters presented Resolution 2026-010, a resolution of the Town of Rossville to increase solid waste collection fees. Mayor Watters reported that the Waste Connections contract was scheduled for renewal effective September 1, 2026, and that the contract provides for an annual CPI-based adjustment with a minimum increase of 3% and a maximum increase of 7%. Beginning with the September billing, resident rates will increase by 3.5%, from \$23.45 to \$24.27 for a single cart and from \$9.55 to \$9.88 for an additional cart. Alderman Jeff Wooden moved to approve the Waste Connections contract and Resolution 2026-010. Alderman Sondra Harris seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Watters reported that Fayette County had placed a referendum on the November election ballot to approve a local option sales tax. She stated that, if approved, the referendum would result in an estimated \$66,000 reduction in Town revenue and would affect the Town's budget in FY27.

Upcoming Events

- **Smokin' on the Wolf BBQ Contest** - Mayor Watters reported that the annual Smokin' on the Wolf BBQ Contest is scheduled for September 24-26, 2026. She noted that a Special Events Exception is required each year for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the park. Alderman Sondra Harris moved to approve the Special Events Exception. Alderman Mike Swessel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Veterans Banner Initiative:** Alderman Jeff Wooden provided an update on the Town's Veterans Banner Initiative. A community member provided funding for the program. The initial plan provides 24 banner locations with two-sided banners honoring up to 48 veterans. Residents may submit eligible veterans through the Town website. The goal is to complete registrations by the end of August, provide information to the printer by October 1, and display the banners during November.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen Pennington, Town Recorder

Approved:

Judy Watters, Mayor