

## RUSHVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

### 1. ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER

The Rushville City Council met in the meeting room of the City Hall Building. Upon convening, Mayor Jeff Ervin directed Mike Grate to call the roll. Upon ROLL CALL, the following answered present: Council Members: Susan Acker, Richard Davis, Terry Dodds, Mike Farniok, Bob Fishel, Bryan Matteson, Mike Ryan, and Paul Trimble. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Others present included: City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler; Superintendent of Operations, Eric Thurman; Mike Grate of the City Clerk's Office; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; Cody Ingles of the Schuy-Rush Board; Brandy Snyder, Hazel Strange, and Tamula Curtis.

### 2. OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer was led by Mayor Ervin.

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ervin.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tamula Curtis, Brandy Snyder and Hazel Strange updated the council on the progress they have made on their seven (7) dogs. Curtis stated all seven (7) dogs have received their rabies shot and will get their updated vaccine shots soon. Snyder said they ordered an invisible fence with shock collars and should be in tomorrow. Mayor Ervin asked if they have submitted a letter requesting a variance for having seven (7) dogs, and Strange noted the letter was given to city hall. Mayor Ervin stated the letter will be sent to the Animal Control Committee, a meeting will be set, and they will give their recommendation to the council. Curtis requested they be notified of the meeting date, and Animal Control Committee Chairman, Paul Trimble said he is waiting for Animal Control Officer, Dave Edward's report prior to setting a meeting. Trimble told Curtis they will be invited to the meeting.

*Tamula Curtis, Hazel Strange and Brandy Snyder left the meeting at 7:05 p.m.*

### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

*All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.*

- a) Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 20, 2024
- b) Approve the Minutes of the Animal Control Committee Meeting held May 17, 2024
- c) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 06/03/24" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve Raising Darla Kirkham's Hourly Rate to \$15/hr Retroactive to May 1, 2024  
(approved by Library Board on May 21, 2024)
- e) Approve Loan Reimbursement
- f) Pass & Adopt Resolution No. 1156, Smile's Day Resolution
- g) Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance No. 1380, Prevailing Wage Ordinance

**Fishel MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Ryan SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Davis, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, & Acker; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.**

### 6. ITEMS TO BE REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – IF APPLICABLE

All items were approved on the Consent Agenda.

### 7. DISCUSS & CONSIDER 2<sup>nd</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1379, ORDINANCE AMENDING CLASS F, GOLF COURSE LIQUOR LICENSE

**Ryan MOVED TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1379, ORDINANCE AMENDING CLASS F, GOLF COURSE, LIQUOR LICENSE TO THIRD (3<sup>RD</sup>) READING. Davis SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Davis, & Dodds; 1 NAY – Acker; 0 ABSENT.**

### 8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER KAYAK RENTAL CONTRACT AT SCHUY-RUSH

Cody Ingles representing Schuy-Rush Board presented an informational packet from Rent Fun, a company specializing in self-service equipment rentals, to the council regarding a kayak rental program. *Said packet is attached and a part of these minutes.* Ingles stated Rent Fun has four (4), eight (8), and twelve (12) unit programs available and advised the Schuy-Rush Board is requesting an eight (8) unit

kayak rental system, with a one (1) time set-up fee of Twenty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000). A discussion followed questioning the number of units needed, financing, rental prices, cell service and liability.

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler stated, if the council would like, she would reach out to Rent Fun and get answers to their questions and bring them back to the next meeting. **No action was taken.**

*Cody Ingles left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

#### **9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER RAMP ON WEST WASHINGTON STREET**

**Due to no quorum being present at the Sidewalk & Lighting Committee meeting, no action was taken on this matter at this time.**

#### **10. DISCUSS & CONSIDER APPROVING A VARIANCE**

Ordinance Review Committee Chairman, Richard Davis reported that Brian Tomlinson has purchased a dilapidated, 1972 mobile home located at 213 E. Clinton Street. Davis stated that Tomlinson wants to replace it with a 1997 double-wide modular home to be moved in late June. Davis noted skirting will be made of mortar type material and will be completed in sixty (60) days from completion of the move, with a possible option for extension. Davis added that the committee thought it would be an upgrade from what was there. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated that the only permanent variance the council would be voting to amend is the age of the modular home, with Tomlinson having to be in complete compliance on everything else.

**Davis MOVED TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE FROM BRIAN TOMLINSON FOR THE AGE OF TRAILER. Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 6 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker & Davis; 2 NAYS – Dodds & Farniok; 0 ABSENT.**

#### **11. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Member, Paul Trimble reported the city was awarded a Nineteen Thousand Eighty-Five Dollar (\$19,085) *Safe Routes to School* grant for Bicycle Rodeo/Safety Course. Trimble added that they had applied for another grant for the N. Jackson sidewalk, but were not awarded that one. Trimble asked the Sidewalk Committee for their assistance in moving forward with this Bicycle Rodeo/Safety Course.

Council Member, Susan Acker asked Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler if she has heard from Hood Construction regarding the demolition contract, and Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler stated that she has not. Mayor Ervin asked Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler to reach out to Hood Construction again and advise them they have one (1) week to contact the city or we will be contacting the next contractor from the bid list.

Water Committee Chairman, Brian Matteson reported that the vac trailer has been delivered and works well. Matteson said Superintendent of Operations, Eric Thurman, along with the city crew, were given a demonstration on its operation at the old library on North Monroe Street and it worked as reported.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds reported the pool is open but not without some setbacks. Dodds stated the pool opened on Memorial Day as advertised with the assistance of himself, Mayor Ervin, and Mark Coil. Dodds added that the pool vacuum is not functioning and the Scripps Park Pool Committee is having a meeting tonight regarding repairing or replacing the pool vacuum. Dodds also stated that he contacted Capri Pools to close and open the pool and they will be contacting the Mayor or City Hall to work out a contact.

Dodds also reported to the council that Pool/Concession Manager, Carly Taylor was hired but had to resign a few days before the pool opening due to her full-time job. Dodds noted another Pool/Concession Manager has been hired and she seems to be knowledgeable.

Mayor Ervin commended Mark Coil and Dodds for all their efforts in getting the pool opened on time.

Dodds reminded the council and Sidewalk Committee members of the meeting regarding the ramp on West Washington Street, on June 6<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

Council Member, Richard Davis asked about summer help with sidewalks and painting. Mayor Ervin stated we are looking into that.

Council Member, Mike Ryan asked if there were any updates on the other two (2) trailers we have had issues with, and Mayor Ervin stated he spoke with Deanna Zeisler and she has someone lined up to put block and mortar skirting up. Mayor Ervin said he will be getting in contact with Randy Beatty.

Council Member, Bob Fishel reported he spoke with Scott Stoll of Moreland & Devitt and Stoll would like the side of the sidewalk ramp painted yellow because people have tripped on those sides because they cannot see them. Thuman stated he would take a look and see what they can do.

Fishel asked Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler if she had heard anything from Fletcher Construction regarding the letter the council sent him regarding the Industrial Park Covenants. Industrial Park Committee Chair, Acker said that Fletcher did call City Clerk, Stacey Briney and was upset, but Acker does not know the exact content of the conversation. Fishel asked what the next step would be if Fletcher does nothing, and Attorney, Wilson-Laegeler stated that the next step would be to file a suit to enforce the covenants. Mayor Ervin said there will need to be an Industrial Park Development Committee meeting regarding this issue so the committee can make its recommendations to the council.

Mayor, Jeff Ervin reported that Animal Control Officer, Dave Edward’s vehicle is in need of being replaced. Mayor Ervin and Edwards found a used 2009 Ford Explorer that is in good shape at Eyer Auto Center for Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$8,900). Mayor Ervin said that he spoke with Schuyler County Board Chairman, Chet Ester and county would split the cost with us and he will place it on the next County Board’s agenda. Mayor Ervin asked for a consensus to purchase the vehicle now and apply the county’s money later. **Consensus of the council was to purchase the 2009 Ford Explorer for Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$8,900).**

Mayor Ervin asked the council if they would like to move up the time of the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to accommodate for the Schuyler County Fair evening activities. **Consensus of the council was to move to July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting time to 5:30 p.m.**

Mayor Ervin advised the council that the part-time employee watering the flowers on the square has quit. Mayor Ervin stated Monte Simpson would like to take over watering the flowers. **Consensus of the council was to hire Monte Simpson to water the flowers on the square. This item will appear on the next council agenda.**

Mayor Ervin stated Gavin Martin is available to help string trim at the cemetery until Cemetery Sexton, George Vincent, gets caught up on the trimming. Cemetery Committee Chairman, Matteson said that Martin would work until the end of June or until Vincent gets caught up on the trimming. **Consensus of the council was to hire Gavin Martin at the cemetery until Vincent gets caught up. This item will appear on the next council agenda..**

Mayor Ervin reported he was approached by Lisa Downs of the Princess Theater and asked if the council would be willing to volunteer some Friday in June. **Consensus of the council was to volunteer at the theater on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**12. ADJOURN**

**Dodds MOVED TO ADJOURN. Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, & Matteson; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:52 P.M.**

Minutes submitted by,

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Mike Grate

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Date Minutes Approved