

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 called the meeting to order and 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 & Paul Trimble. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Others present included: Mike Grate of the City Clerk's Office; City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler; Superintendent of Operations, Eric Thurman; Chief of Police, Rick Wright; Moe Billingsley of *The Rushville Times*; Ana Eveland, RIHS Career Connect Student; State's Attorney, Chuck Laegeler; and City employees Drew Ralston and Mark Wilson.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer was led by Mayor, Jeff Ervin.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ervin.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

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 October 7, 2024
- b) Approve the Minutes of the Police Committee Meeting held October 16, 2024; Sidewalk & Lighting Committee Meeting held October 16, 2024; & Street Committee Meeting held October 16, 2024
- c) Approve "Claims for Council Approval Dated 10/21/24" & Accept Monthly Reports
- d) Approve Closing the North & South Alley between N. Congress & N. Monroe Streets West of the 1st United Methodist Church on Friday, November 1st for the Annual Harvest Meal

Dodds MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Fishel SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL "YEA" ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Acker, Davis, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan & Trimble; 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 APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSH SPENCER AS SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS AT A SALARY OF \$67,000

Mayor Ervin said that as many of you know, Superintendent of Operations, Eric Thurman is leaving us and his last day will be October 31st. Mayor Ervin complimented and thanked Thurman for his years of service to our community and wished him well with his new employment.

Council Member, Terry Dodds pointed out that Thurman has a separate contract for the sewer license and he wanted to make sure he was going to maintain that license for us. Mayor Ervin confirmed that Thurman would maintain that license.

Farniok MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSH SPENCER AS SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS AT A SALARY OF \$67,000. Trimble SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 7 YEAS – Davis, Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Ryan, Trimble & Acker; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT; 1 ABSTAIN – Matteson.

8. DISCUSS & CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE

Mayor Ervin reported city employee, Ross Lenover has turned in his notice and his last day will be October 31st. Mayor Ervin said he would like to get the advertisement out as soon as possible.

Trimble MOVED TO APPROVE ADVERTISING FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE. Acker SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Dodds, Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, & Davis; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

9. DISCUSS & CONSIDER PURCHASING DUTY WEAPONS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Mayor Ervin stated, currently, the full-time police officers have to purchase their own duty weapons. Mayor Ervin said there is a concern that if there was an incident where the officer's weapon needed to be turned in for an investigation, they would be out their weapon that they purchased. Mayor Ervin noted Chief of Police, Rick Wright had a quote for five (5) duty weapons, clips, holsters, and LED tactical lights in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$5,575). Police Committee Member, Bob Fishel asked if that quote included all needed accessories and Chief Wright said it did.

Dodds MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASING DUTY WEAPONS FOR POLICE OFFICERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$5,700). Farniok SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Farniok, Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, & Dodds; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT.

10. COUNCIL MEMBER & OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman, Terry Dodds reported he, Schuyler County Engineer, David Schneider, the Boy Scouts, and other volunteers pinned all trails at Schuy-Rush Park using Schneider's GPS system. Dodds noted all that information will be sent to Western Illinois University for mapping.

Ordinance Review Committee Chairman, Richard Davis reported the trailer owned by Brian Tomlinson on East Clinton Street is coming along well and should be finished soon. Davis stated the trailer on North Congress Street that Dale Beatty resides in looks very nice as well.

City Attorney, Erin Wilson-Laegeler reported the insect problem on South Congress Street needs to be sprayed again so she will reach out to City Clerk, Stacey Briney to get this scheduled.

Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated there are a few ordinance violation cases going, three (3) of which the individuals admitted liability and are on a compliance schedule. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler asked about the progress of the trailers at South Congress Street owned by Randy Beatty and the one on Penny Lane owned by Deanna Zeisler because the allowance of time is about to expire. Council Member, Mike Ryan stated the trailer on Penny Lane is completed, but there has not been any progress on the one on South Congress Street. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler wondered if she needed to reach back out to Randy Beatty again, and Mayor Ervin said Randy Beatty was not the owner of that trailer and he had been the point of contact. Mayor Ervin noted Rose Shoemaker is the actual owner and Beatty no longer resides at this residence. Attorney Wilson-Laegeler stated she would reach out to Shoemaker.

Superintendent of Operations, Eric Thurman reported the ring has been poured at Hilltop.

Council Member, Bryan Matteson wanted to thank Thurman for his service to the community and also wanted to thank his employees for all their efforts this year. Matteson stated he knows it can be a thankless job but he wanted them to know he appreciates everything they do.

Chief of Police, Rick Wright reported he received a complaint on the number of chickens at a residence on Robinwood Drive. Chief Wright said there were a lot of chickens and animal control has them all right now. Chief Wright stated that the resident there was very compliant and easy to work with.

Mayor Jeff Ervin wished Thurman the best.

11. ADJOURN

Fishel MOVED TO ADJOURN. Matteson SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED WITH AN ALL “YEA” ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS: 8 YEAS – Fishel, Matteson, Ryan, Trimble, Acker, Davis, Dodds & Farniok; 0 NAYS; 0 ABSENT. THE MEETING STOOD ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY AT 7:15 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,

Mike Grate

Date Minutes Approved